

May 14-15, 1998
Elton John splits from manager
LONDON (AFP) — Pop star Elton John has decided to split from his manager and manager's wife, Jeanie Robertson, after a stormy row over his health and career. The 47-year-old singer, who has won three Grammys and a Brit Award, is credited as the new "legend" of the music world. John, who has a world-renowned career with a track record of 30 gold discs and a lifetime of service to charity, is said to have been "driven" by his manager's wife. The split comes after a long period of tension between the two. John's manager, John Reid, is said to have been "driven" by his wife's desire to see John succeed. The split is expected to be a major event in the music industry.

Strour, Algerian counterpart discuss ties

ALGIERS (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Strour on Friday held talks with his Algerian counterpart, Abdul Qader Ben Saleh, on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. Mr. Strour stressed Jordan's readiness for cooperation with Algeria in various respects. He also reiterated Jordan's rejection of all forms of terrorism, pointing to the Kingdom's belief in rational dialogue and the principles of Shura.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

Arafat, King meet today

JERICHO (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will travel to Amman Saturday for talks with King Hussein about the ongoing crisis in the peace process, a senior Palestinian official said Friday. "President Arafat and King Hussein will discuss the peace process and U.S. efforts to organize a summit meeting later this month in Washington with [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu and President Bill Clinton," said Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian peace negotiator. Mr. Erakat said he and Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo would also take part in the Amman meeting.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998. MUHARRAM 20, 1419

Price: Jordan 200 fils

Jordan warns of escalation Palestinians bury their dead but new flare-up of violence averted

AMMAN, GAZA (Agencies) — Jordan slammed on Friday the killing of eight "innocent" Palestinians by Israeli forces and called on Israel to avert an imminent escalation in tension. "The huge loss and bloodshed will lead to an escalation in clashes and violence and the failure of efforts for peace," said the government's official spokesman, quoted by the Jordanian press. Those killed were "innocent" and taking part in "peaceful marches," he said.

"The government expresses its extreme sadness and grief at the fall of the Palestinian martyrs and calls on the Israeli side to deal with this matter with all the necessary wisdom to avoid an escalation," the spokesman added. Palestinians buried their dead on Friday as a combination of Israeli warnings and efforts by Palestinian officials averted a new flare-up of violence after nine Arabs were killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Over 1,000 Palestinians turned out for a national funeral in Gaza City for Zalem Al Waheidi, an ambulance medic shot dead by Israeli soldiers during mass protests on Thursday marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation. After prayers over the body in a mosque, a procession of 100 cars and jeeps from security forces, decked out with Palestinian flags and photos of Waheidi, headed with the body to Gaza "martyrs' cemetery for burial, witnesses said.

The Israeli army meanwhile deployed tanks on the border with Gaza and warned of a sharp response if a new round of violence erupted after the clashes Thursday between soldiers and thousands of Palestinian protesters in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

But Friday, calls for calm were largely heeded in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, except for Hebron, where several hundred stone-throwing youths clashed with Israeli soldiers, who responded with rubber-coated metal bullets.

An Israeli photographer was seriously wounded in the stomach by a rubber bullet and was undergoing surgery in a Jerusalem hospital. Two other protesters were slightly hurt.

Palestinian police tried in vain to stop the stone-throwers and the clashes lasted for several hours.

"In Jerusalem during prayers at the Al Aqsa mosque in the Old City, a few youths threw stones at Jews at the Wailing Wall below, but Al Aqsa officials quickly forced them to stop.

Israeli soldiers cleared the Jewish worshippers from the site but they did not take action against the stone-throwers, witnesses said.

The Israeli army commander in the Gaza Strip, Yoav Galant, warned of a heavy response if unrest continued for a second day.

"If the Palestinians choose the path of violence, they must pay the price for their actions," he said on Thursday.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat meanwhile slammed Israel's repression of the demonstrations on Thursday and warned that Israel was "pushing the whole area, not only Palestine, towards an explosion of violence.

He blamed the Israeli army for sparking violence during Thursday's massive marches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, called by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nakbe, the "catastrophe."

He accused army snipers of intentionally killing eight Palestinians who the Palestinian health ministry said died in the clashes after being shot in head. They were buried quietly on Thursday, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

A 22-year-old Palestinian man died Friday 24 hours after being shot by Israeli troops in widespread clashes which also left eight other Palestinians dead, hospital officials said.

Israeli Shuhada had been declared clinically dead late Thursday but was maintained on an artificial life support system until Friday, doctors said.

He was shot in the eye Thursday by Israeli soldiers during stone-throwing protests by residents of the Qalandia refugee camp in Arab east Jerusalem to mark Israel's 50th anniversary.

"Israeli measures, particularly the snipers, are the cause of what happened. This use of snipers is a barbaric act on the part of some of the soldiers and the settlers," Mr. Arafat told journalists.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was visiting the United States this week for talks on U.S. proposals to break the long deadlock in the peace process, accused the PNA of fomenting the violence as a "pressure tactic" to influence the peace talks.

"They promised to stop this incitement of propaganda for violence," which he said had led to "tragic" loss of life, the Israeli premier said.

Israeli and Palestinian analysts meanwhile said Israel's stern rejection of U.S. peace proposals was likely to fuel further violence.

"More outbreaks of violence can be expected if Israel persists in its refusal to honour its commitments, notably concerning further withdrawals from the West Bank," said Yossi Beilin, an opposition Labour Party leader and key architect of the Oslo peace accords.

Sari Nusseibeh, the rector of Al Quds University just outside Arab east Jerusalem, agreed.

"New excesses are inevitable, given the popular frustration" over the peace process, he said.

Rabbis order manhunt for stabber

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Rabbis on Friday ordered their followers to help police track down suspects who stabbed six Palestinians in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem over the past three months.

In the latest attack on Wednesday, a 51-year-old Palestinian man was killed. The earlier stabbings ended in injuries.

The rabbinical court of the ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim neighborhood issued a "judgment on a persecutor," known in Hebrew as a "Din Rodeh," against the unidentified assailants.

Posters plastered on walls in Mea Shearim announced the ruling Friday. "This is a provocation by people who are not part of our community," the posters said. "These people are acting in our neighborhood in order to make us look bad."

In response to the ruling, small teams of ultra-Orthodox investigators were set up to search for the killer.

The Eda Haharedit is an ultra-Orthodox community that does not recognize the state of Israel, arguing that a Jewish state can only be established once the Messiah comes. The decision to cooperate with Israeli authorities marked a first for the community.



MOURNING THEIR FATHER: The sons of Zalem Al Waheidi, 51, look at their dead father's body, wrapped in a Palestinian flag, in Gaza City Friday. The ambulance medic was shot dead by Israeli soldiers during mass protests on Thursday marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation (AFP photo)

After 'no progress' in Washington Netanyahu holds talks with Annan in New York

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived at U.N. headquarters Friday for talks with U.N. chief Kofi Annan overshadowed by violence in the occupied territories.

Moments before the Israeli premier entered the building, Mr. Annan issued a statement saying he was "deeply disturbed" by the deaths of nine Palestinians in violence on Thursday linked to Israel's 50th anniversary.

Mr. Annan urged "maximum restraint" by both Israelis and Palestinians, saying that the latest flareup underscored the need for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

Mr. Netanyahu is expected to brief the U.N. chief on his inconclusive Washington talks with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

But their midday meeting is expected to focus mainly on Israeli proposals to withdraw from southern Lebanon, where the United Nations maintains a 20-year-old peacekeeping force of 4,500 soldiers.

"I think [Annan] wants to listen to the prime minister of Israel, to get a more detailed sense of what Israel's plans are concerning southern Lebanon," said Mr. Annan spokesman Fred Eckhardt.

Mr. Eckhardt added that Mr. Annan would tell Mr. Netanyahu that "he feels that there can't be peace in the region without Syria and the other nations of the region involved."

Syria and Lebanon have rejected Israel's April 1 offer to implement U.N. Resolution 425 providing for a withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon, where Israel maintains a border "security zone" aided by an Israeli-backed militia.

They say that the Israeli offer contains unacceptable conditions and should take place in the context of an overall settlement, including an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The Israeli leader did not comment to reporters as he entered the U.N. building amid tight security.

Mr. Netanyahu, who got on well with Mr. Annan during the U.N. chief's visit to Israel in

March, asked for Friday's meeting and was holding private talks with the secretary general before they lunch together.

Officials said Mr. Annan would handle the sensitive issue of an Israeli withdrawal with great caution, after being criticized by Syria and Lebanon for welcoming Israel's offer to pull out and saying that "discussions" would be needed.

U.N. Resolution 425, adopted in 1978, calls on Israel to "withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory," taken to mean that the Israeli pullout should be unconditional.

Mr. Annan has set up a working group within the peacekeeping department to study possible implications for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

But Mr. Eckhardt said at a news briefing Friday that the secretary general would not take a "leading diplomatic role" on the issue.

An intensive effort by Ms. Albright to reopen peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians ended without a breakthrough Thursday.

However, the Israeli prime minister said that he has identified what territory Israel can safely give up and probably will make concessions to reach an accord.

Mr. Netanyahu said Israel would not yield land in ways that threaten the country's security, and he vowed never to agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state or to yield part of Jerusalem.

"We have determined which of those areas we can disengage from," the Israeli prime minister said in a speech Thursday night to the American Jewish Committee.

Lower-level American and Israeli specialists were directed by Ms. Albright and Mr. Netanyahu to keep trying to fashion an agreement.

With Israeli officials saying no agreement was reached on any of the difficult issues, including how much territory Israel would relinquish on the West Bank, the Clinton administration seemed to have suffered at least a temporary foreign policy setback.

"There is no agreement yet on the issues that were discussed," said Gadi Balfanzky, the Israeli

Embassy spokesman. "But they continue to be discussed," he said.

Ms. Albright's spokesman, James Rubin, said: "We do have sufficient reason to continue serious work." He said Ms. Albright had ended direct talks with Mr. Netanyahu and would fly to London this weekend to join U.S. President Bill Clinton in meetings with European leaders.

"It is hard to be optimistic," Mr. Rubin said after Ms. Albright completed an 80-minute meeting Thursday with Mr. Netanyahu at a hotel a few blocks from the White House. It was their second session in two days, as the Clinton administration struggled to end a 15-month stalemate in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians over the future of the contested West Bank.

In Eisenach, Germany, where he kept long-distance watch over the difficult U.S. foreign policy initiative, Mr. Clinton was downbeat.

"I hope before I leave office that we will have secured a peace agreement in the Middle East that will last for a long time," he said before the talks concluded.

The biggest stumbling block was a U.S. proposal that Mr. Netanyahu relinquish an additional 13 per cent of the territory to the Palestinian National Authority.

Mr. Netanyahu delegated Danny Naveh, the Israeli cabinet secretary, Yitzhak Molcho, the prime minister's legal adviser, to hold the continuing talks with U.S. officials here.

Before their meeting, Mr. Netanyahu telephoned Ms. Albright and urged her to call Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and advise him that Thursday's violence in Gaza could only have a detrimental effect on the peace process.

Mr. Rubin said Ms. Albright called Mr. Arafat "to express her concern and regret about the death of the Palestinians" in the turmoil. She also urged restraint on both sides.

The U.S. spokesman, reflecting on the lack of a breakthrough again, said, "It is a problem of substantive differences" but that Mr. Netanyahu "is negotiating in good faith."

Government condemns attack on Al Aqsa

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan condemned the Thursday attack on Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem as an outrageous act, and held Israel responsible for the consequences. The attack burnt down Al Aqsa's Ghawamleh gate, one of the main gates leading to the Islamic shrine.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, in a statement Thursday, said the Israeli government bears the responsibility for protecting the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, noting that the attack was not the first of its kind to be perpetrated by Israeli extremists against

the holy shrine.

Arsonists were reported to have set fire to a wooden gate leading into Al Aqsa mosque compound in Arab east Jerusalem before dawn Thursday, causing damage but no injuries.

Dr. Majali said what has happened in Jerusalem contravenes the Jordan-Israel peace treaty of 1994, especially with regard to the holy places, adding that the present deadlock in the peace process is bound to tempt extremist elements to commit further aggressive actions against the holy places.

There can be no alternative to the fulfilment of the

peace accords and their implementation, as this will deny the extremist elements a chance to harm the feelings of Arabs and Muslims or commit acts of aggression against their holy shrines, the Prime Minister stressed.

For his part, Acting Minister of Information Naser Lawzi said that the Jordanian government received with deep regret the news about the outrageous act against the third most sacred shrine for Muslims.

The Israeli arsonists burnt the Al Ghawamleh gate by throwing an explosive

(Continued on page 7)

Anani, Musa discuss peace impasse, economic relations

CAIRO (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani on Friday started an official visit to Egypt where he will deliver a verbal message from His Majesty King Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral relations, the latest developments in the peace process and issues of common concern.

Dr. Anani said upon arrival that Jordan and Egypt enjoy strong and distinguished relations.

He added that he will review

with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, the critical stage the peace process is passing through.

In reply to a question on the latest incidents in Palestine, Dr. Anani said that the government has issued a statement condemning the bloodshed of Palestinians as well as the attack on Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, pointing out that this is due to Israel's intransigence and non-commitment to the signed agreements with Palestinians.

Mr. Musa welcomed the visit saying that the peace

process is passing through a critical stage which "incites us to increase the level of coordination and cooperation."

He added that the visit also aims to promote bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Accompanying Dr. Anani is Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki, who said that trade exchange between Jordan and Egypt is on the rise, and that the higher joint Jordanian-Egyptian ministerial committee has achieved a lot in the last few years.

Cotti in Amman today to bolster ties, discuss Middle East peace

By Francesca Ciriadi with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Swiss President Flavio Cotti is expected here today for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on regional issues and ways to strengthen already friendly bilateral ties, according to a Royal Court statement issued on Thursday.

Mr. Cotti's visit to Jordan, at the invitation of King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor, comes as part of a four-day Mid-East tour including the Palestinian self-rule areas and Israel.

Mr. Cotti, who is also foreign minister, held talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat late Friday on bilateral relations and the stalled Middle East peace process.

Mr. Arafat's aide Nabil Rudeineh was quoted by news agencies as saying that the two leaders discussed "the latest developments in the peace process with Israel, which has

been put in dangerous straits by Israeli measures."

Today, Queen Noor and Mr. Cotti are scheduled to inaugurate the excavated "sig" or entrance of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, following the conclusion of a major restoration project (See story on page 3).

News agencies quoted Bern's federal foreign affairs department as saying that the purpose of Mr. Cotti's visit was the "boosting Swiss support for the peace process and strengthening ties with the most important partners in the Middle East."

Peace talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track have been stalled since last March, when the Likud-led government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the green light for construction works for a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Agence France Presse (AFP) news agency described Mr. Cotti's visit to Israel on

Sunday as "the longest and most delicate part of his trip."

Swiss-Israeli relations became strained in February, after Swiss police arrested an Israeli spy after attempting to install telephone bugging equipment as part of a Mossad operation against a supporter of the Muslim Shiite resistance party, Hizbollah.

Israel apologized for the botched operation and Bern released the Mossad agent in late April.

Another thorny issue in bilateral relations remains Israel's criticism of Swiss banks and institutions for allegedly keeping Jewish assets deposited by Holocaust victims during World War II.

U.S.-based Jewish groups have accused Switzerland of restricting access to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution, dealing in gold looted by the Nazis, and maintaining business and banking relationships with the Third Reich.

Suspects in car bombings reenact crimes

By Tareq Ayyoub Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Suspects, who allegedly confessed to masterminding a series of bombings in Amman last month, reenacted their crimes in front of police investigators.

The Arab daily Al Dustour said that the suspects, seven Jordanians, reenacted the planting of a fire-bomb in the parking lot of a four-star hotel in Amman and near the house of former Public Intelligence Department chief, Mohammed Rasoul Kilani.

The daily did not name its sources, but added that the reenacting was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat and Captain Mahmoud Hiyasat from the State Security Court, where the sus-

pects will be tried.

On Sunday, Acting Information Minister Naser Lawzi said that eight suspects were involved in the five bombings, and that the eighth suspect, of unspecified Arab nationality, remains at large.

The eight suspects allegedly admitted that they planted local-made bombs at the Modern American School, the Highway Patrol headquarters, under a car belonging to Mr. Kilani, in a garbage container near the house of former interior minister, Jawdat Shoul, and in the Jerusalem International Hotel parking lot. None of the bombings resulted in injuries.

Mr. Lawzi said that the eight were members of a "fundamentalist" group, which he didn't name. The minister

added that they were funded and instructed from abroad.

The weekly tabloid Shihan said that Samer Ismail Amer, a student of engineering and chemistry at the University of Sciences and Technology, holds a Brazilian passport.

The weekly quoted his family as saying that they have notified the Brazilian embassy in Amman "who submitted a memo to the foreign ministry demanding an explanation for Mr. Amin's arrest."

Shihan also said that one of the suspects, Khalid Tawfeeq Amin, was a corporal, working at the Highway Patrols.

The Agence France Presse said that the eighth suspect linked to the bombings is Egyptian, and was financed by a Jordanian of Palestinian origin living in the United States.

Palestinians call for international action to prevent more violence

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority appealed on Thursday night for international action to prevent the Middle East exploding into violence, following a day of clashes in which eight Palestinians were killed and hundreds more injured by Israeli troops.

"The international forces concerned by peace in the Middle East must react immediately before it is too late to put a stop to Israeli intransigence which is pushing the region towards a general conflagration," the Palestinian cabinet warned at the end of its weekly meeting in Ramallah.

The cabinet, headed by the authority's president, Yasser Arafat, said the Israeli army's bloody repression Thursday of Palestinian demonstrators in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank "will not lessen our people's determination to liberate their land whatever the sacrifices."

The Palestinian cabinet observed a minute's silence in honour of the "nine martyrs of this heinous crime" and the "more than 400 injured," warning that "all options remain open" for the future.

Palestinian police release photographer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian photographer who human rights activists say was severely beaten in detention has been released from a Palestinian jail.

Associated Press in a telephone interview that he was "in good health." Mr. Moumami said he was told Thursday evening by his jailers in the West Bank town of Ramallah that he was free to go, but was not given further explanations.

Mr. Moumami was arrested May 5 in connection with a videotape in which the Islamist group Hamas accused the Palestinian National Authority of involvement in the mysterious death of the group's chief bomb-maker,

Mohieddine Sharif. Reuters obtained the videotape and broadcast it in April.



HEBRON UNREST: A masked Palestinian Friday burns an Israeli flag on a pile of burning tyres, while another aims a pistol during clashes with Israeli troops in Hebron. Unrest broke out in the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem a day after Israeli troops shot dead eight Palestinians in violent demonstrations marking 50 years of the 'nakbeh,' or 'the catastrophe' (Reuters photo)

Rights group calls on U.N. to urge Israel to meet convention obligations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human Rights Watch yesterday called on the U.N.'s Committee Against Torture to request that Israel submit a special report detailing its actions to implement its obligations under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, according to a press release.

Human Rights Watch noted that Israel's report failed to satisfactorily address serious concerns the committee raised in its previous sessions.

The trend in Israel is toward legislation to shield abusers from responsibility for their actions and punish whistle blowers," said Mr. Megally.

Hamas leader says Palestine will be 'liberated' in 40 years

CAIRO (AFP) — The spiritual leader of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas said he expects the Palestinian territories to be "liberated" within 40 years by the next generation of Palestinians.

"I think that in 40 years the next generation will have liberated the country, the people, and the land from Israeli occupation," Sheikh Ahmad Yassin said in an interview Friday with the weekly Egyptian Al-Ahram.

"Within 40 years of the loss of the majority of Palestine [and the creation of Israel in 1948], a new generation of Palestinians had already made itself known... the generation of the stone, Molotov cocktail, assault rifle and bomb," he said.

Muslim officials accuse Jewish extremists of Al Aqsa arson

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — One of seven wooden gates leading to Islam's third holiest shrine was partially destroyed by fire early Thursday, and Muslim officials blamed Jewish extremists.

Israeli police confirmed that the door was damaged by arson, but said they had no suspects. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, insisted the crime was committed by "extremist Jewish settlers."

"This is a deliberate and planned attack against our holy site... by extremist settlers who firebombed the door," said Mr. Arafat.

India tests pose threat to Israel — analyst

INDIA'S NUCLEAR tests could indirectly pose a threat to Israel, according to Haifa University security specialist Gabriel Ben-Dor.

"I think this is very bad for Israel from several points of view," said Mr. Ben-Dor, head of the university's National Security Studies Programme. "First, it raises the question of punitive U.S. action against India which might, in the future, be considered a precedent for similar action against Israel."

Hard-liners unleash new campaign against Iranian cleric

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian hard-liners unleashed a new campaign of hostilities against dissident cleric Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri Friday as thousands of people in the central city of Esfahan denounced him as a traitor.

A crowd of up to 30,000 hard-liners responded to a call by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to rally in Esfahan during weekly Friday prayers and denounce Ayatollah Montazeri — once the designated heir to the republic's late founder Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini — as a traitor to the regime.

Habash calls for meeting on new Palestinian strategy

DAMASCUS (R) — George Habash, feeling his scepticism about the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal has been vindicated, called on all Palestinian factions to meet abroad to map a new strategy.

Physically weak but mentally as unyielding to Israel as ever, the secretary general of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat could come to Egypt or Tunisia if he did not want to hold talks in Syria.

"Every Palestinian with a minimum level of responsibility must think in terms of having a national dialogue," the white-haired 71-year-old said in an interview with Reuters.

"The dialogue must include Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Arafat. I demand to have this dialogue out of Palestine. Why not do it in Egypt or Tunisia if Arafat refuses to come to Syria," he said.

The interview was conducted last Saturday for release on the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation, which led to the continuing Palestinian refugee problem.

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Tel. 773111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 15:10 | Cartoon — Jonny Quest |
| 15:30 | Wanna Be |
| 16:00 | Drama — Neighbours |
| 16:30 | Doc. — Ocean Wild |
| 17:00 | French Programme — "Faut Pas Rever" |
| 18:00 | Acapulco Bay |
| 19:00 | Le Journal |
| 19:15 | French Programme — "Discovery Mag" |
| 19:30 | News headlines |
| 19:35 | Quiz Show — You Bet Your Life |
| 20:00 | Cinema, Cinema |
| 20:30 | Prism |
| 21:10 | Drama — Sirens |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:30 | Feature film — "Moby-Dick" |
| 23:59 | Comedy — "Are You Being Served?" |
| 00:30 | End of T.V. |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 04:04 | Fajr |
| 05:33 | (Sunrise) Duha |
| 12:32 | Dhuhr |
| 16:13 | 'Asr |
| 19:30 | Maghreb |
| 20:59 | Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifiah, Tel. 5920740 | |

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4623366

Anglican Church Tel. 4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5638404

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifiah Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel. 892679

The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052

The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

The Armenian Orthodox

Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to rise gradually with moderate weather conditions prevailing, and winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman12/26

Aqaba30/33

Deserts11/28

Jordan Valley18/31

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30 Aqaba 31 Humidity readings: Amman 60 per cent, Aqaba 44 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Asmar890504

Dr. Nidal Afay751672

Dr. Hafez Hannoun567984

Dr. Osama Hussein5347289

Firas pharmacy5661912

Ferdous pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy4637055

Nairookh pharmacy4623672

Al Salam pharmacy4636730

Yaacob pharmacy4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy4637660

Najib pharmacy53477632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh250080

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Nabil Saffarini901323

Khalifah pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre.....4637111

Civil Defence Department.....5661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630341

Civil Defence Emergency.....199

Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777

Fire Brigade.....4617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police.....843402

Traffic Police.....896390

Public Security Dept.4630321

Hotel Complaints5605800

Price Complaints5661176

Water & Sewage Complaints 897487

Amman Municipality Complaints787111

Telephone Information (directo-

ry assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs.....5661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority5680100

J. Electricity Authority815615

Electric Power Co.4636381

RJ Flight Information, 44-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic, Abdli5666131/7

Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856

Lozra4630195

Khalidi Maternity4644281/6

Akileh Maternity4642441/2

Jabel Amman Maternity 4642362

Malhas, J. Amman4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani5607071

Shmeisani Hospital5669131

University Hospital5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5667277/9

Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50

Amal Hospital5674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital.....(09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275

Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained

and proceeding to Marka Airport (RW) 23:25 Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:15Aqaba (RJ)

09:00Damascus (RJ)

09:45New Delhi (RJ)

10:25Beirut (RJ)

10:30Karachi, Dubai (RJ)

10:50Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

11:00Colombo (RJ)

15:35 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:05Cairo (RJ)

17:30London (RJ)

23:30Paris (add) (RJ)

23:30Frankfurt (RJ)

23:59Paris (RJ)

06:00Bangkok (RJ)

Other Flights

06:05 London, Damascus (BA)

14:10 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)

15:05Vienna (OS)

18:00Dubai, Muscat (EK)

19:00Paris (AF)

19:05Frankfurt (LH)

23:35Cairo (MS)

23:40Amsterdam (KL)

23:40Beirut (ME)

01:05 London, Damascus (BA)

02:05Belgrade (JU)

03:00Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)

10:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00Aqaba (RJ)

06:45Beirut (RJ)

11:00Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)

11:45 Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)

12:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:30Aqaba, Brussels (RJ)

13:00Paris (RJ)

13:00Geneva, London (RJ)

13:15Cairo (RJ)

14:55Madrid (RJ)

21:10Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)

21:20Jeddah (RJ)

21:20Bombay (RJ)

22:00Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

01:20Aqaba, Paris (RJ)

Other Flights

07:00Beirut (ME)

07:35Damascus, London (BA)

15:00 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

15:50Vienna (OS)

19:00Dubai (EK)

00:40Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)

13:10Belgrade (JU)

04:00Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW)

08:40 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)

21:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Looters kill about 250 in burning Jakarta stores

JAKARTA (AFP) — More than 250 people were killed in fires set by looters in department stores and shopping malls, as stunned residents Friday pulled charred bodies from the burning ruins.

A huge blaze swept through the five-storey Yogya department store in the Klender suburb east of Jakarta late Thursday as looters rampaged through the five-storey building. Red Cross officials said.

"These people fell victim to their own savagery," said a member of staff who identified himself only as Joko at the nearby police station. Most of the dead were believed to be young men, who brought scenes of anarchy to the city with a wave of looting and burnings.

Residents working alongside rescue workers were still pulling the bodies from buildings Friday as charred corpses in black garbage bags were piling up at the Cipto Mangunkusumo hospital.

Wawan, 27, a resident of Jatinegara, said he saw looters had descended on the Yogya store late Thursday. "These young boys, they don't understand anything. They were having fun," he said.

"The police or fire department didn't come at all but I guess if they had come the people would have attacked them."

He said he had pulled out the remains of 20 people from the building.

"The bodies are destroyed, there are only bones left," he said.

A total of 170 bodies from the Klender disaster were laid out Friday, as hospital staff struggled to identify them from bits of uncharred clothing and any documents, an AFP photographer said.

"Family members have started coming in to see if their sons were among the bodies," said I Made Nasar, a physician at one hospital.

"They look for anything recognisable ... little pieces from their trousers, belt, buttons, anything."

Rescue workers said they expected to recover more bodies from the Yogya store as so far they had only searched two floors of the building.

A second fire was still smouldering Friday at the Ramayana department store in the northern area of Tanjung Priok, where a group of looters were trapped when a second gang set fire to the building, the Red Cross said.

Rescuers had already dragged at least 54 bodies from burning embers laying them in morgues of two hospitals until relatives could identify them.

A third fire set by looters in the industrial district of Tangerang west of Jakarta, claimed at least 20 lives and the bodies of others were believed to be trapped on the top two floors of the four-storey Ramayana Plaza shopping mall.

In a fourth tragedy police said a fire was still burning at the Jatinegara Plaza, a shopping mall in Jatinegara, also in east Jakarta around three kilometres from Klender.

A spokesman said police did not know how many had died as rescuers had been unable to enter the building, but said people were known to have been trapped inside.

One person was already reported to have died after jumping from the burning building, a hospital doctor said.

The Yogya fire broke out in the early afternoon Thursday, but raged unabated until midnight when

local citizens tried to contain the blaze. A fire department operations chief for east Jakarta Cipto Hadisucipto told AFP they had not attended the scene of the Yogya disaster because it was too dangerous.

Before they could go to any fires Thursday fire officials first had to check the situation with the armed forces because of the mob violence.

"If we had gone without the army, our only defence is our water hoses," he said.

At one place where firefighters turned out, people pelted them with stones and smashed the windows of one of their fire engines.

Elsewhere in the capital fires enveloped hundreds of shops, vehicles, banks and gas stations were set ablaze by looters Thursday.

Australians ready for military airlift from Indonesia

SYDNEY (AFP) — Contingency plans are in place to airlift Australians out of Indonesia in military aircraft if the situation worsens in the country, the government said Friday.

But Canberra is hoping the airlines will cope with the orderly departure of people trying to flee Jakarta where at least 200 people were the latest victims of the worsening unrest as a department store was torched by looters Friday.

Australian Ambassador John McCarthy described Jakarta as "dangerous and volatile" but not yet in a situation of anarchy. "We're not yet in the evacuation stage," he said.

Australian carrier Qantas Airways Ltd put a bigger Boeing 747 on its service from Jakarta to Sydney Friday to provide 100 more seats and is monitoring the situation to see if a further increase is required, the company said.

"There's a lot of people who want to leave Jakarta," he said.

Among them were 60 Australian students studying language and culture in Jogjakarta, who made plans to fly home via the resort island of Bali which has so far been unaffected by the violence elsewhere in Indonesia.

Indonesia's Garuda was also trying to schedule an extra flight to Australia to cope

with the demand after two of its flights were cancelled in the morning because crew and staff were unable to reach Jakarta airport.

Most Australian companies closed their Indonesian plant and offices Friday and advised staff to stay home or consider leaving.

"No-one has been evacuated but all our options are in place and we are monitoring the situation hour by hour," said a spokesman for Coca Cola Amatil, which employs a dozen expatriates in Indonesia.

Among them, BHP with 50 expatriates, closed its four steel products plants and told its 600 employees to stay in their homes.

Businessman Bob Keyes, who supplies supermarkets in Indonesia, said as he arrived back here Friday: "Hundreds of buildings were on fire, supermarkets had been looted and set alight and many homes were burnt down."

New South Wales Premier Bob Carr, who returned to Sydney from an aborted trip to Jakarta Friday, described the victimisation of minority ethnic Chinese there as a "human rights tragedy".

"The people who are suffering are not in fact the wealthy Indonesians of Chinese descent; they're the small holders, the people who have got a miserable shop with all it contains," he said.

Cambodian peace talks fail within minutes; resistance team leaves

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Talks aimed at reintegrating the resistance forces of deposed Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh into the government army failed within minutes Friday after the government objected to one of the prince's representatives.

It was not clear when or if the talks would resume but the prince's team left for Thailand Friday afternoon and there was no indication that another meeting was in the works.

The failure of the talks was seen as a blow to a Japanese-sponsored peace plan aimed at letting the prince take part in July's scheduled elections. The talks ended in less than 10 minutes after the government's chief negotiator General Dam Vuthy said they could not accept Long Sorin, a former diplomat at the Cambodian embassy in Thailand, as part of the prince's team.

"We discussed before that there must not be political or diplomatic representatives at the talks but this morning there was a diplomat and we told General Khan Saveoun that we could accept him," he told reporters. Khan Saveoun is the leader of the resistance negotiating team.

"The meeting this morning is cancelled and we have asked Khan Saveoun to reshuffle his representatives and form a new one with only the military," Gen. Vuthy said.

Other military sources said Phnom Penh was also unhappy that Khan Saveoun was still referring to Prince Ranariddh, who was violently ousted last July, as "First Prime Minister" and "co-commander in chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces."

Powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, who effectively ousted the prince, has also objected to Prince Ranariddh's continued use of the titles, saying parliament replaced him as co-premier shortly after his ousting. Long Sorin, clearly upset at the controversy engulfing him, said he was only a part of the team because Hun Sen's forces had killed most of the commanders loyal to the prince.

"If all the generals who were killed were still alive, I would not have to come to attend this meeting," he said. At least seven senior military officials loyal to the prince were among the nearly 100 royalist supporters — many of them soldiers — killed in the aftermath of last year's

fighting, according to human rights groups.

Khan Saveoun released a statement saying that he and resistance commander Nhek Bun Chhay were still committed to the peace process and the Japanese plan. A ceasefire — part of the plan — is now in place but reintegration of the resistance into the army is one of two key steps still unfulfilled.

It has been complicated by the fact that Hun Sen has not agreed to pardons for three of the prince's senior commanders, convicted along with him of illegally importing weapons and colluding with the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction to topple the government. Under international pressure, Hun Sen personally appealed to King Norodom Sihanouk to grant the prince a full pardon. But he has refused to authorise pardons for the generals. Without the pardons, the three generals including Nhek Bun Chhay, have threatened to continue fighting — which could prevent the prince from standing in the election unless he publicly repudiates his army. Under Cambodian law political parties are not allowed to maintain armies or control their own autonomous zones.

China coal mine blast kills 14

BEIJING (R) — At least 14 people were killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in southwestern China, a government official and a newspaper said Friday.

Rescue workers had recovered 14 bodies from the Dujiang coal mine in Sichuan province's Dujiangyan city after a cave-in caused by an

explosion Wednesday, a provincial government official said.

More than 10 people were injured and rushed to hospital, he said by telephone.

The cause of the blast was still under investigation, the official said. He declined to give further details.

The Western China Urban daily quoted a relative of one of the victims as saying there were more than 40 miners in the pit at the time of the explosion.

Accidents in Chinese coal mines killed more than 2,000 miners last year, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year, local media have said.

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Indonesian authorities search for remains of victims following Thursday's blaze in a Jakarta shopping centre. At least 110 people, mostly believed to have been looters, were killed when the mall was set on fire during riots in the Indonesian capital, witnesses and officials said (Reuters photo)

French FM arrives in Tirana

TIRANA (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine arrived Friday in Tirana for a brief visit during which he will hold talks with his Albanian counterpart Paskal Milo on the troubled Serb province of Kosovo.

Mr. Vedrine will also meet the Albanian President Rexhep Meidani, Prime Minister Fatos Nano, who visited Paris in April, and the leader of parliament, Skender Gjinushi.

He is also due to meet former President Sali Berisha, now leader of the opposition.

Mr. Vedrine and Mr. Milo will exchange documents ratifying a bilateral treaty of friendship and cooperation signed in 1994.

The French foreign minister arrived in Tirana after an overnight visit to Skopje, Macedonia, where he met the Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, Premier Branko Cervenkovski and Foreign Minister Blagoj Handziski.

He also met members of the Albanian community, which accounts for a quarter of Macedonia's two million population.

Mr. Vedrine assured the Albanian minority that the Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia (the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy) was "basically in agreement over the root" of the problems in Kosovo, where the dominant Albanian population seeks independence from Serb rule.

"I explained again why the members of the Contact Group considered the Kosovo situation to be intolerable, why no member of the group, no European country, no country at all for that matter, can back the call for independence and why our policy is to secure wide autonomy through negotiations," said Mr. Vedrine.

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S. Korea vigilant over North Korea's threats to restart nuclear programme

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea is closely watching North Korea after it threatened to resume its nuclear programme, complaining the United States had reneged on a deal to provide two reactors, officials said Friday.

"North Korea had made similar threats before, and right now we are simply just keeping a close eye," a government source familiar with North Korean affairs told AFP.

"At the moment, we can't take it too seriously, but then they should not be taken lightly," he said.

Pyeongyang froze its nuclear weapons programme after the 1994 deal which provided two nuclear reactors for North Korea.

Washington also agreed to supply 500,000 tonnes of fuel oil annually until the 1,000-megawatt reactors are completed. The United States said it would pay for the heavy oil but not the reactors.

Analysts here believe North Korea is pressuring the U.S. since Washington, Seoul and Tokyo have not yet settled who will pay for the reactors.

A government official here said North Korea was also taking advantage of the outrage which greeted India's five nuclear weapons tests this week.

"Since the main issue is nuclear now with India's tests, the North Koreans feel this is the right time to bring up their nuclear threats," he said.

North Korea's ambassador to China, Chu Chang-Jun Thursday said since the U.S. was "failing to honour its promise, some of our senior officials think it is difficult to trust the United States and that we should go ahead with building nuclear reactors in our country."

The United States is believed to be running into problems in funding the heavy fuel oil, and has asked South Korea for help. Seoul has said it cannot help as it is putting up nearly 70 per cent of the total reactors' costs, estimated at between \$4.5 to \$5.5 billion.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman is in Seoul to discuss the reactor issue.

An official at the Foreign and Trade Ministry said Mr. Kartman held talks with the director-general of the ministry's U.S. bureau, but details of the meeting were not available.

Paul Beaver of Jane's Missiles and Rockets was quoted as saying that Pakistan had been "working very hard" with North Korea and Iran to develop nuclear weaponry.

Jane's defence group Wednesday said Pakistan was expected to carry out a nuclear test of its own before the end of June in response to India tests.

Frank Sinatra dies of heart attack

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Singing legend and movie star Frank Sinatra has died of a heart attack, according to his publicist Susan Reynolds. He was 82.

The crooner, known as "Ol' Blue Eyes" was pronounced dead at 10:50 p.m. Thursday (0550 GMT Friday) in the emergency room of Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre. Ms. Reynolds said in a statement.

His wife Barbara and children were with him when he died, the statement said.

Sinatra has not been seen in public since a heart attack in January 1997, and has been in and out of the hospital several times since then.

His family had occasionally acknowledged he was in ill health but denied rumours that he was on his death bed.

Sinatra, who left women swooning for three decades, was one of the most enduring show business stars of the 20th century.

Francis Albert Sinatra was born Dec. 12, 1915, in Hoboken, New Jersey, the son of a firefighter-brother and a barmaid mother.

After winning first prize in the Major Bowles Amateur Hour radio programme, he got a job singing for a touring band.

Sinatra caught the attention of Big Band leader Harry James and quit his sports reporter job to take up singing full time. He later switched to Tommy Dorsey's band.

His romantic styling and casual stage presence had teenage girls — known in the 1940s as "bobbysoxers" — shrieking and fainting, a phenomenon presaging the adulation given to Elvis Presley and the Beatles.

But in the early 1950s, Sinatra hit a slump as rock 'n' roll eclipsed the Big Bands. He suffered damaged vocal chords and his film career dried up.

In 1953, he staged a spectacular comeback, winning an Oscar for best supporting actor with his performance in "From Here to Eternity."

By the 1960s, Sinatra was a show business institution, selling over 600 million recordings with a string of hits that included "My Way," "Strangers in the Night" and "The Lady is a Tramp," and appearing in over 50 movies.

But he was also dogged by suspicions of mafia ties. Despite months of legal manoeuvres, he was compelled to testify at a New Jersey commission on organised crime in 1970. He also testified before Congress and a Nevada commission on his reported mob links.

Sinatra, who officially retired in 1971 but subsequently gave several concert tours, married four times: to Nancy Barbato in 1939, actress Ava Gardner in 1951; Mia Farrow in 1966; and Barbara Marx, widow of comedian Zeppo Marx, in 1977.



Frank Sinatra, who sang, danced, loved and brawled his way through life while becoming one of the century's most beloved entertainers, has died aged 82. Spokeswoman Susan Reynolds said Sinatra died of an acute heart attack in the emergency room of Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles late May 14. Sinatra is shown in this file photo with Donna Reed, holding their Oscars for Best Actor and Actress in a supporting role in 1954. He won the award for the role of Maggio in the 1953 film "From Here to Eternity" (Copyright Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences)

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Philippine Vice President Joseph Estrada says an Estrada victory leader in the administration party assure him that he was not being punished. Reuters photo.

Philippine president concedes defeat

MANILA (AP) — President Joseph Estrada conceded defeat to Joseph Binay in the presidential election, saying he would support Binay's victory.

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Philippine Vice President Joseph Estrada (right) meets with Leticia Ramos-Shahani, the younger sister of President Fidel Ramos, at his Manila house where Ms. Ramos-Shahani says an Estrada victory is imminent. Ms. Ramos-Shahani, a high-ranking leader in the administration party, gave Mr. Estrada copies of the election returns to assure him that he was not being cheated in the Ramos' hometown in northern Pangasinan (Reuters photo)

Philippine presidential candidate concedes defeat to Estrada

MANILA (AFP) — Fringe presidential candidate Renato de Villa Friday conceded defeat to Joseph Estrada in Monday's election, leaving the sitting vice president and six rivals to contest the result.

"Based on the indicated trends from all over the country, it is clear that Vice President Joseph Estrada has accumulated a commanding lead over all other presidential candidates," Mr. de Villa told a news conference.

"I congratulate him for his achievement," Mr. de Villa, a former

defence secretary and former protégé of incumbent President Fidel Ramos, launched a spoiler's bid for the presidency after he was passed over for the ruling party nomination in favour of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

An unofficial count showed Mr. de Villa at sixth place with just 2.7 per cent of the votes tallied compared to Joseph Estrada's 34.3 per cent with 44.8 per cent of precincts reporting.

Two other candidates, Juan Ponce Enrile and Manuel Morato, conceded defeat Thursday.

Earlier Friday Mr. Ramos' younger sister Leticia Shahani called on Joseph Estrada at his home to assure him that her family will refrain from tampering with the result. The ruling party said Ms. Shahani was only speaking for herself.

Mr. de Venecia has refused to concede while another fringe candidate, Miriam Santiago, charged Friday that Joseph Estrada had engaged in "a tsunami of vote-buying which has drowned all semblance of democracy in our poor country."

Far right DVU says will run in German election

MUNICH (R) — The German People's Union (DVU), which recorded the best post-war result for the far right in a German state last month, announced Friday it would run in September's general election.

The DVU, which Germany's internal security agency has called anti-semitic and racist, won 12.9 per cent of the vote in a state election in the economically depressed eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt last month.

The scale of the party's success, which polling institutes failed to predict, sparked memories of the Nazis' rise to power in the 1930s, shocked Jewish groups and plunged Germany's mainstream political parties into a bout of soul-searching.

"We have decided to run in

the federal election," said DVU spokesman Olaf Hermann.

The federal party executive voted this morning unanimously to campaign in the election. We are now working on our election manifesto. We have a list of candidates which still has to be approved," Mr. Hermann said.

The party, which says it has 16,000 members and was founded in 1987, briefly entered the Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein state assemblies in the early 1990s.

The DVU has until now only campaigned in selected state and local elections where it believed it had a chance of winning at least 5 per cent of the vote — the minimum level needed to win representation.

The closest a far-right party has come to entering the bur-

deau lower house of parliament was in 1969 when the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) garnered 4.3 per cent of the vote, falling short of the 5 per cent required.

The office for the protection of the constitution, the internal security watchdog, has said the far right vote in Germany is split between several parties and that there is no charismatic leader who could unite them.

Experts say for this reason it is unlikely any one of Germany's main three far right parties — the DVU, the Republicans and the NPD — will enter national politics.

The federal election is to be held on Sept. 27.

Warhol work fetches \$17 million

NEW YORK (AFP) — Andy Warhol's "Orange Marilyn" fetched \$17.3 million for a work by the pop art master.

The 1964 portrait of U.S. movie star Marilyn Monroe, done from a photo taken during filming of "Niagara," is set against an orange background. It had been valued at between four and \$6 million.

It was sold for \$17,327,500 after two bidders battled it out by telephone, as the audience held its breath. It broke into applause when the hammer fell.

Sotheby's said at least six people wanted "Orange Marilyn" but that all but the last two bidders quickly dropped out.

The previous record for a Warhol work was set in May 1989, when "Shot Red Marilyn 1964" sold for \$4,070 million at Christie's in New York.

Sotheby's contemporary art

sale was an overall success, generating nearly \$35.7 million against a high estimate of \$25 million.

The auction included Lucian Freud's "Large Interior W11" that sold for \$5.8 million — the highest amount ever paid for a Freud.

"This is a very wise buy for this price," noted Tobias Meyer, a contemporary art specialist for Sotheby's. Warhol's painting "is an icon of the century. This is the equivalent of a De Kooning, a Jasper Johns or an important Picasso."

The May 1989 Christie's sale in New York occurred at the height of the art boom. "Shot Red Marilyn 1964" fetched just \$3.6 million in November 1994, also at Christie's in New York.

Warhol, who died Feb. 22, 1987 of a heart attack, is already the third most expensive contemporary artist, but still far behind De Kooning or

Johns, who — like the Impressionists — have broken the \$20-million mark.

At least one Warhol had already approached the price of "Orange Marilyn." Last year the Museum of Modern Art of New York reportedly bought a series of 36 Campbell soup cans for \$15 million.

"We are absolutely thrilled with tonight's result," said Diane Brooks, Sotheby's chief executive officer. "This is the most important contemporary sale for Sotheby's since 1990."

In other sales, Warhol flowers fetched \$910,000 against a high estimate of \$650,000 and a Robert Motherwell \$860,000 against a high estimate of \$500,000.

Two tiny metal-wire sculptures by Calder, "Acrobats" and "Cow," were surprise hits, selling for \$794,500 and \$299,500 against high estimates of \$150,000 and \$80,000 respectively.

Powerful U.S. mission in Pakistan in bid to avert looming nuclear test

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A U.S. delegation is planning a carrot-and-stick approach in talks Friday with an angry Pakistan, which is reportedly close to conducting a tit-for-tat nuclear test following India's five blasts.

The team led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott includes Anthony Zinni of the U.S. Central Command, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth, Special Assistant to the President Bruce Riedel and a senior director at the National Security Council, U.S. officials said.

The delegation was to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan and top military officials to try to persuade them not to copy India, which sparked

international outrage this week by conducting five nuclear tests.

"The meetings are a promised follow up to a telephone conversation Tuesday between President Clinton and Prime Minister Sharif," a U.S. statement said.

The delegation was here to "learn directly more about Pakistan's concerns in the wake of Indian tests," the statement said.

"The groups will be describing the full impact of sanctions imposed on India and other nations as well as counselling restraint on Pakistan's part in response to the Indian move," it said.

The U.S. officials after their pre-dawn arrival were to plunge into talks after resting. Mr. Clinton sent the U.S. team after a telephone conversation

with Mr. Sharif, who told him Pakistan had "no option but to take appropriate measures to protect its security and sovereignty."

On the eve of the visit the Pakistani cabinet "considered all aspects of the issue and unanimously resolved that Pakistan's legitimate security and defence interests are supreme, which under no circumstances can brook any compromise."

Sources quoted by the Pakistani press said the cabinet at its three-hour session Thursday called for a nuclear test.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars in their 50-year history while a lingering dispute over the ownership of the northern state of Kashmir remains a regional flashpoint.

A State Department

spokesman in Washington said Thursday the goal of this "extremely difficult" mission was "to make clear the advantages to Pakistan of not testing and ... the extreme disadvantages of testing."

The United States has imposed tough sanctions against India and did not rule out a similar move against Islamabad.

Reports from Washington said Pakistan was making preparations to conduct its test, possibly as early as Sunday. Officials here had no comment.

The U.S. fears that "strong political pressures" will push Pakistan to respond with its own tit-for-tat test. State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Washington has also suggested rewards if Pakistan abstained, Mr. Rubin said.

adding that the U.S. team "did not leave with empty hands." Political sources speculated that the U.S. may offer Pakistan some sophisticated military equipment to boost its security.

They said Islamabad may get an early warning system and a quick settlement of the 1989 deal on 28 F-16 aircraft. Pakistan paid \$658 million for them but delivery was cancelled over a U.S. ban because of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

The U.S. team may also offer an economic package through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund if Pakistan accepts its demand. But Pakistan faces a real dilemma because of tremendous domestic pressure to conduct a nuclear blast, one official said.

Myanmar court jails Westerner for five years

YANGON (AFP) — A British-Australian national convicted of illegal entry and suspected of "terrorist" activities was sentenced to five years in prison by a Myanmar court Friday.

In addition to the five-year term, the maximum penalty for the offence, James Rupen Russell Mawdsley, 25, was fined 50,000 kyats (\$7,812) by the divisional court at Yangon's Insein prison.

The court said Mr. Mawdsley had 90 days to lodge an appeal on compassionate grounds, and that if he fails to pay the fine a further 15 months would be added to his sentence.

A legal advisor to the Australian and British embassies in Yangon said Mr. Mawdsley could appeal to the high court, where legal counsel could be provided.

Mr. Mawdsley, who is also suspected by Myanmar authorities of "terrorist" activities, pleaded guilty at a trial inside the Insein prison compound Wednesday to charges of illegal entry.

The dual British-Australian citizen entered the guilty plea after being charged with violating Myanmar's Emergency Provisions Immigration Act, sources and witnesses at the trial said.

A British embassy spokesperson said it was not

clear why Mr. Mawdsley had been handed out the stiffest possible penalty for a case of illegal entry, but said the judge had raised earlier accusations of terrorism during the sentencing.

"The judge did not make any specific comment on why he had given him the most severe sentence, although I understand that when they were talking about the charges he raised the question of terrorism again," the diplomat said.

The officials said that diplomats had been able to talk to Mr. Mawdsley following Friday's proceedings, adding that he appeared calm and was considering appealing the sentence.

"On the question of the appeal, we simply do not know. It is up to him, and he is considering it at the moment, he is not sure yet," the diplomat said.

An Australian diplomat said earlier that Mr. Mawdsley had

already accepted that a prison term was likely.

Mr. Mawdsley was arrested on April 30 near the Thai border shortly after crossing into Myanmar without a visa or passport.

Last week a state-run newspaper in Yangon said Mr. Mawdsley was a "mercenary terrorist" who had crossed the border "with the intent to cause disturbances to disrupt stability of the state."

The report said he was "collaborating" with the Thai-based anti-government All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and ethnic Karen National Union rebels.

Authorities said he had been arrested and expelled from Myanmar last year for organising anti-government demonstrations in Yangon (Rangoon) and handing out "terrorist" pamphlets, but had returned on foot across the Thai border.

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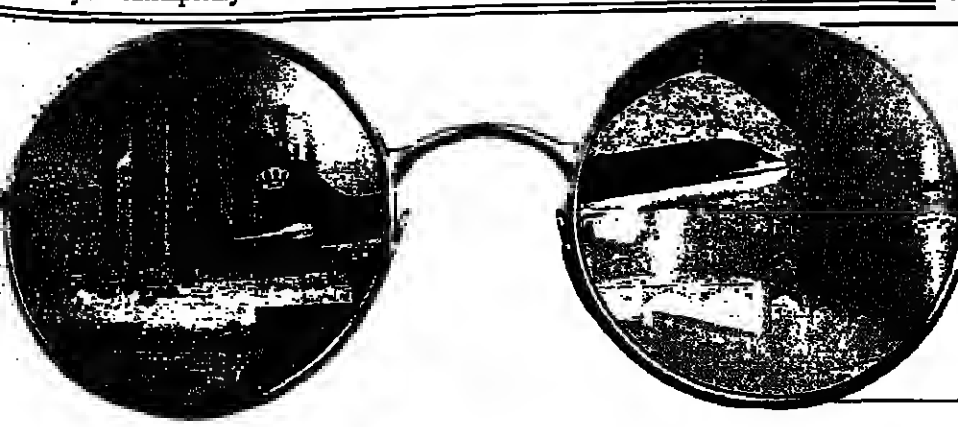
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ROYAL JORDANIAN
 Reflecting the Change.

Investments benefiting from IPC law rise by 7.5%

AMMAN — Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) Director Manager Muntasser Oqlah revealed Friday that 59 projects carrying JD84.5 million of investments benefited from the corporation's law since the beginning of 1998 until this date.

Dr. Oqlah said that 64 projects with JD78.6 million of investments benefited from the investment promotion law in 1997.

He added that, as such, the 1998 volume of investments registered a 7.5 per cent increase over the same period of 1997 while the number of projects decreased by 7.8 per cent.

Dr. Oqlah pointed out that the contribution by non-Jordanians amounted to JD13.4 million, constituting 15.9 per cent of the total volume of investments.

He said that Arab investments topped the list with a JD11.2 million, accounting for 83.5 per cent of the overall non-Jordanian volume of investments.

The IPC chief indicated that Arab Gulf investments registered JD9.8 million, or 87.5 per cent of total Arab investments and 73.1 per cent of the non-Jordanian total.

Regarding existing projects, Dr. Oqlah said that nine businesses have expanded their projects with a JD18.1 million volume of investments at a rate of 20 per cent of the total investment.

He gave the following distribution for the 1998 projects:

- 45 industrial projects carrying JD30.8 million of investment. The volume accounts for 36 per cent of the overall investments.
- Five hotel projects with a JD3.9 million of investments representing five per cent of the total.
- Five agricultural projects which carried investments totalling JD12.4 million and representing 15 per cent of the overall investments.
- Three health projects with a JD24.9 million of investments accounting for 29 per cent of the total.
- One project in the maritime and railway transportation sector. With investments at JD 12.5 million, the share was 15 per cent.

Israel pledges to boost trade with Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Israel and Turkey will more than double bilateral trade to \$15 billion by 2000 in addition to their boosted military cooperation, the Jewish state's new ambassador here said Thursday.

"Our two-way trade, some \$650 million last year, will exceed \$1.5 billion in the next couple of years, thanks to our free trade agreement which took effect last year," Uri Bar Nar told Turkey's state-run Anatolia news agency.

"The two countries should continue to develop cooperation in several fields in addition to defence," he said.

Mr. Bar Nar presented Turkish President Suleyman Demirel with his credentials at a ceremony here Thursday.

Signing two key cooperation accords in 1996, Turkey and Israel have bolstered military ties following decades of dormant relations.

Israeli defence companies have won Turkish contracts worth nearly \$1 billion since then and the two states' air forces cooperate in military training. The two also held a joint naval exercises with the United States last year.

Iran and several Arab countries, most notably Syria, have denounced the Turkish-Israeli military cooperation, saying the deal targets Arab countries. Ankara and the Jewish state deny the claim.

But General Cevik Bir, deputy chief of the Turkish general staff, is due to travel to Israel later this month for joint strategic evaluation of missile threats to the two countries by Iran and Syria, Turkish newspapers have reported.

Arab Gulf states turn to private sector to create jobs for nationals

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are turning to the private sector to find jobs for their citizens as financial strains are stifling growth in the foreign-dominated and bloated public sectors, a U.N. study has said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have made headway in efforts to replace foreign labour with nationals in the public sector.

But they face numerous obstacles in the private sector, said the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), a U.N. agency.

"The unemployment problem is a source of worry for the GCC states as the local labour in the private sector is less than 10 per cent," it said in its latest study on social and economic developments in the Arab region.

"The problem is not only that the private sector is reluctant to employ nationals but these nationals prefer to work in the public sector because it offers much higher salaries and more attractive financial benefits."

The study said most GCC members were considering measures to force the private sector to provide jobs to nationals, who are far more costly than expatriate workers.

In Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest GCC state, the government has set securing jobs for its growing national workforce as a primary goal in its five-year development plans and has announced incentives for private firms.

They include granting loan facilities and giving preference to companies which employ more Saudis in government contracts.

King Fahd has also repeatedly urged the private sector to find jobs for nationals to avert higher unemployment in the local workforce.

"Companies operating in Saudi Arabia have been requested to boost their national workforce by five per cent a year or they will face penalties, including depriving them of government contracts," a Saudi economist said.

Kuwait is studying measures to make recruitment of foreign labour more expensive by forcing companies to increase health and other benefits for foreign workers and raising visa and residence fees.

"The government is also considering subsidising the salaries of Kuwaiti workers in the private sector and linking all the incentives and facilities to companies to the number of Kuwaitis they employ," ESCWA said.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), officials said this year they plan to introduce measures making it compulsory for the private sector to hire nationals, after repeated government pleas fell on deaf ears.

The measures include a ban on recruitment of expatriates in jobs that can be filled by natives. In return, the government plans to encourage companies beeding its calls by giving them priority in contracts.

The other GCC members — Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — have also announced job nationalisation plans but are facing the same problem in the private sector.

"The main problem in the GCC is the excessive employment in the public sector which will remain slow because the governments are rationalising expenditure, due to falling oil prices," ESCWA said.

Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, need to step up training for national manpower in the fields that are demanded by the private sector where they can be paid as much as in the public sector," the U.N. agency added.

The study said Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil supplier, was moving in the right direction by sharply boosting budget allocations for education and training to \$11.1 billion in 1997 from \$7.36 billion in 1996.

Foreigners, mostly Asians, make up more than half the GCC's population of around 22 million, while they account for more than two thirds of the people in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE, and as much as 90 per cent of their total workforce.

GCC nations are heavily reliant on oil exports which constitute more than 80 per cent of their total income and 35 per cent of gross domestic product. But the oil sector provides less than two per cent of the total jobs.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998

By Linda D. Buck, Astrologer

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An older person may have some good ideas about managing money. Listen. He or she may also have work for you. You would add money to your account as well as your personal self-esteem. Pay attention to your questions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Something you expected first thing this morning. Make sure you know what's going on with an older person before proceeding. Once that's handled, the rest will be easy. Ten respectfully to an older person's advice in the evening.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) While you're feeling pinched financially, today you might start to feel like a millionaire. All you had to do was use a little creativity. You might even be able to make something you want. Think about how this evening you're travelling to visit friends.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Your partner and friends would all like to go to something fun. How about gardening? You're all good at it, and you love digging in the dirt. If you don't have a neighbourhood garden already, get one started. Or visit a botanical garden. You'll get lots of great ideas.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're going to be very high-energy most of the day, although you might feel a little stressed as well. Are you climbing a mountain? If not, that's the kind of thing you should be doing. Either that or running a marathon... or cleaning out the garage. Go for the gold.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're lucky again this morning. Set new goals and take action. You should know what you want by now, so go out and get it. Don't wait until the afternoon. Conditions are not as good then. The early bird will definitely get the worm now, and the odds are in your favour.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Tidy up this morning so you can have friends over this afternoon. People will be in the mood to share their most bizarre fantasies and experiences. Since you like to surround yourself with eccentric people, this ought to be really interesting.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're learning a lot and applying that knowledge to better your environment. You're also making a fabulous impression on someone you admire. If a few of the chores you assign yourself seem undoable, get a friend to help. You'll have more fun and you'll get more done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take care of practical matters this morning. Balance the checkbook, go over your budget, pay bills and do the shopping. They're not your favourite tasks, but right now they may seem almost enjoyable. Tonight, have interesting neighbours over. This is the perfect evening for it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Play, laugh, fall in love, travel, do fun things, get serious if you must. Yours is the sign of seriousness, but it's not required today. You might even feel like squandering your money tonight. Spend it on something that will make a lasting impression.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're driven by guilt this morning, as you race around finishing things that should have been done by now. This is a familiar pattern, but by this evening you should be done. Schedule a date for tonight or tomorrow, or both. You'll be in great shape by then.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get together with friends this morning. You may not have time later. A new assignment is coming in, and your schedule is pretty much dictated by somebody else's whims this evening. Might as well go along with it. That'll free you up to do something more fun later.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

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Moi says Kenya is in serious financial trouble

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi said heavy borrowing by his government from the domestic money market was crippling the economy and called for a concerted effort to stem a decline.

"The government has borrowed heavily to finance (budget) deficit," President Moi told an open economic consultative meeting he chaired here to seek ways of solving the country's economic crisis.

The level of short-term domestic borrowing had increased sixfold over the past decade, he said.

According to a discussion paper prepared by a team of government economic advisors, the country's domestic

debt rose from \$1.05 billion in 1992 to \$2.5 billion currently.

The government was using 24 per cent of its annual revenue to pay interests on money borrowed through the 91-day treasury bonds and bills issued by the central bank at an interest rate of 27 per cent.

President Moi blamed an inefficient public service for most of the economic problems the country was facing.

"Weak public sector management has resulted in the failure to operate and maintain the existing public assets and services. The adverse effects manifest themselves in the poor conditions of our infrastructure," he said.

One of the recommendations

by the team of experts was that the government enact a legislation to ensure that the state budget was always balanced.

They also suggested a freeze on all government projects in the next two years and the restructuring of the civil service to boost efficiency.

"Kenya's civil service, including teachers, is too large in relation to the size of the economy. Salaries and allowances for civil servants and teachers are now taking nearly 54 per cent of the recurrent expenditure," the economists said.

Kenya's civil service is estimated at 500,000 employees. Some 80 per cent of the education ministry's budget is absorbed by teachers salaries,

they added.

High interest rates on treasury bonds had pushed up interest rates on bank lending to between 30 per cent and 40 per cent, making it almost impossible for the private sector to borrow investment capital, the economists said.

Kenya's financial crisis worsened in July last year when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suspended funding worth \$205 million, amid concerns over high-level corruption.

The World Bank's representative to Kenya, Harold Wackman, told the gathering that budgetary discipline and accelerated privatisation of state corporations would help solve some of Kenya's financial problems.

THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

1 Egg on
5 Relish
10 Appendage
14 "Strauss" Playwright
15 Lure
16 Jacob's twin brother
17 Takes advantage of
18 Collection of words
20 Bestride
22 Has a cigar
23 Population of a
24 Low dam
25 Having only magnitude
28 Collages
32 "The Age of Anxiety" poet
33 Fragrant gum
34 Obsessive fan
35 Word workout
39 Salesman, briefly
40 Involved with
41 Hot air
42 Alternate
45 Like a hillside
46 Asses
47 Those folk
48 Animal with one foot
51 Traffic jam
53 Word meaning
57 Mystery writer, Stanley
58 River through Caen, France
59 Pluck
60 Nickname of Defon Sanders
61 Evening in Paris
62 Very strong winds
63 Makes a lawn

7 Bad habit
8 Giant Mel
9 Elevates
10 Poe's lady
11 "Out of Africa" author Dinesen
12 Stable termite
13 Purchases
18 Overlook
21 School officials
24 Ralph Emerson
25 Coeur
26 Successful treatments
27 Take up
28 —cochere (sheltered entrance)
29 Ostrich a fly
30 Heartbeat
31 Gallant mount
32 Barbecue tool
33 Big bash
37 Headless, in a way
38 Kin of a fishy
43 Stringer
44 Presley's middle name

45 Reflects light
47 Valuable discovery
48 Japanese salad
49 Roman tyrant
50 Former Spanish part of Africa
51 Pink baby?
52 Nabisco sandwich cookie
53 Lump of dirt
54 Barry and Norton
58 Oolong or darjeeling

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



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DAMAR
ORDOB
BOINAL
TEOGUN

Answer: A AND (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VITAL LITHE HARBOR MODIFY
Answer: What the highway crew got at a truck stop — ROAD "FILL"

Daily

A review of

Municipality of Jordanians to acc

THE MUNICIPALITY of Amman (MCA) has taken a "new" decision to encourage Jordanian workers in the health sector by giving them extra family allowances. Mayor M. Abuhadi said, "We would be encouraging the Jordanian citizen to overcome the culture of shame."

"If we want a worker to accept serious steps should be taken to encourage the person to take this work as a job," the mayor said. He added that the municipality would also provide the necessary facilities as a sign of respect for the workers. Dr. Abuhadi indicated that due to the unemployment problem in the

Government to information, r

REPRESENTATIVES FROM Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jordan Development and Commerce Corporation, the Investment Corporation and the Industrial Corporation held a meeting aimed at preparing a bulletin to explain the benefits and advantages of the Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ). According to Samir Omari, director of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the QIZ will enable the industrialists

REUTERS The Business

| Major Currencies & Cross | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Currency | USD | GBP | JPY |
| US Dollar | 1.0000 | 0.6936 | 149.64 |
| DE Mark | 0.8000 | 0.5641 | 136.36 |
| GB Sterling | 1.2500 | 1.0000 | 163.27 |
| CH Franc | 0.6720 | 1.1930 | 149.64 |
| JP Yen | 0.0074 | 1.3206 | 149.64 |
| CA Dollar | 0.6907 | 1.2816 | 149.64 |
| IL Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0141 | 149.64 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4960 | 0.8800 | 149.64 |
| FR Franc | 0.1670 | 0.3200 | 149.64 |

| Weekly Price | | | |
|---------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Currency | USD | GBP | JPY |
| US Dollar | 1.4104 | 0.7099 | 1.7888 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4104 | 0.7099 | 1.7888 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2898 | 0.1499 | 0.3798 |
| Sahran Dinar | 2.85 | 1.3906 | 0.9402 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 1.1948 | 1.6304 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2701 | 1.2723 | 1.6271 |
| Yemen Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1360 | 1.6271 |
| Libanese/1000 | 0.68 | 0.4000 | 2.6700 |
| Egyptian | 0.2928 | 0.2078 | 1.6802 |

| Energy | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Oil | Last | Change | Unit |
| Brent | 14.33 | 14.33 | \$/bbl |
| WTI | 14.82 | 15.11 | \$/bbl |
| Boony | 14.43 | 14.33 | \$/bbl |
| Dubai | 13.15 | 12.77 | \$/bbl |
| IL Gas | 158.00 | 158.00 | \$/bbl |

| Metal Prices | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Metal | Bid | Offer | Unit |
| Gold (oz's) | 301.3 | 301.5 | \$/oz |
| Silver (oz's) | 5.69 | 5.72 | \$/oz |
| Palladium (oz's) | 404 | 406 | \$/oz |
| Platinum (oz's) | 1370 | 1371 | \$/oz |
| 20 (3 Months) | 1735 | 1740 | \$/oz |
| 30 (3 Months) | 1073 | 1078 | \$/oz |
| 40 (3 Months) | 548 | 549 | \$/oz |
| 50 (3 Months) | 4960 | 4980 | \$/oz |

| Commodity | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|------|
| Commodity | Last | Change | Unit |
| Coffee (c/b's) | 132.92 | Up | \$/c |
| Cocoa (c/b's) | 2002 | Up | \$/c |
| Wheat (c/b's) | 271.9 | Up | \$/c |
| Maize (c/b's) | 93 | Up | \$/c |
| Soy (c/b's) | 28.46 | Up | \$/c |
| Wheat (c/b's) | 116 | Up | \$/c |
| Wheat (c/b's) | 0 | Up | \$/c |
| Cocoa (c/b's) | 410 | Up | \$/c |

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Municipality of Greater Amman encourages Jordanians to accept jobs as sanitation workers

THE MUNICIPALITY of Greater Amman (MoGA) has taken a "revolutionary" decision to encourage Jordanians to work as sanitation workers. By including daily-paid workers in the health insurance programme and giving them extra pay as family allowance, Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi said, "we would be encouraging the Jordanian citizen to overcome 'the culture of shame'."

"If we want a worker to accept this job, serious steps should be taken to encourage the person to take this work and other jobs," the mayor said. He added that we face the unemployment problem at all levels as studies show that there are 600,000 non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom. Dr. Abbadi indicated that due to the augmenting jobless problem in all social classes, MoGA has given priority to Jordanians who are willing to take the jobs of sanitation workers. "We have formulated regulations minimising the employment of non-Jordanians and as we give high importance to the cleanliness of Amman, we believe that the citizen is capable and has no problem in working in this job," he said.

The mayor explained that in 1994, non-Jordanians took 61 per cent of the sanitation work but the equation was reversed in 1998 when 95 per cent of the sanitation workers were Jordanians. Dr. Abbadi concluded by indicating that MoGA at present employs 3,500 Jordanians and that only 1,300 are "guest workers" who account for 27.1 per cent of the total number of employees. (Al Arab Al Yawmi).

Government to issue bulletin detailing information, requirements about QIZ

REPRESENTATIVES FROM the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation, the Investment Promotion Corporation and the Industrial Estates Corporation held a meeting recently aimed at preparing a bulletin to explain the benefits and advantages of the Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ).

According to Samir Omeish, advisor to the minister of industry and trade, the bulletin will enable the industrialists and investors to get all the necessary information and requirements to meet the terms of the QIZ agreement which allows exports to U.S. markets without taxes or customs.

Dr. Omeish revealed that preparations are currently under way to open a special office at the Al Hassan Industrial Estate in Irbid to provide all the services related to the QIZ arrangements and procedures and to clarify all the practical measures needed in addition to answering any queries in this regard. (Al Dustour).

Foreign demand for bank shares boosts AFM trading

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) increased during the past week following a sudden demand by non-Jordanian investors for banking shares, a broker said Friday.

The stock exchange's weekly bulletin indicated that turnover in the past week amounted to JD8.1 million, a 65.3 per cent increase over the previous week's figure.

The bulletin showed that 4.9 million shares were traded through 3,656 contracts. The average daily trading was JD1.6 million.

"Trading of bank shares has played a major role in this increase," Abdul Mutalib Abu Hileh, a broker at the stock market, said. Mr. Abu Hileh indicated

that the demand for Arab Bank shares, mostly by Arab and foreign investors, has amounted to 25 per cent of the weekly turnover.

"Foreign demand for the Arab Bank's shares, following the capitalisation of reserves, has encouraged foreign investors to concentrate their activities on the Arab Bank," the broker told the Jordan Times.

He noted that demand also focused as well on the shares of the Housing Bank which decided also to capitalise its shares, effective Saturday.

Mr. Abu Hileh said demand for bank shares is expected to continue in the coming weeks.

"Foreign demand for bank shares has led local investors also to trade in this sector," the broker indicated. He said that demand for

industrial shares was "very humble" although trading focused on the Jordan Electricity Company and the Arab Pharmaceutical Company "which recorded good profits in the past year due to the increase in sales to Arab markets, especially Iraq."

The broker said that lowering interest rate by the Central Bank of Jordan and foreign investments in the stock market will "play a leading role to increase the trading in the AFM."

"The stock market will absorb the liquidity surplus resulting from the decrease of the interest rate. This will encourage local investors to return to the market," he explained.

The weekly bulletin indicated that general price index has also increased by 10.9 point, up to 179.9 point in the past week compared

to 169.03 point a week ago, or 6.4 increase.

Trading in the banking sector amounted to JD4.46 million, or 55.1 per cent, followed by the industrial sector with JD2.8 million, or 35 per cent. Services sector recorded JD730,000, or nine per cent, and finally insurance sector trailed with JD54,000, or 0.7 per cent.

Out of the shares of 96 firms that changed hands in the market, 40 companies recorded increase in their prices, 37 companies registered decrease, while 19 firms witnessed no change in their prices.

Meanwhile, Jordan Security Commission (JSC) chairman Michel Marto said that the foreign investment in the AFM has increased in April compared to the same month in the past year.

Dr. Marto said in a statement, which was made

available to the Jordan Times, that "buying orders of foreign investors in the past month has amounted to JD11.4 million compared to JD800,000 in the same month of 1997, or 13-fold increase."

The selling orders by these investors amounted to JD2.5 million in April 1998, the JSC's statement said.

The net foreign investments, of which the bulk came from foreign funds, amounted to JD9.1 million, Dr. Marto added.

AFM's statistics showed the net Arab investments in the first quarter of this year amounted to JD8.2 million whereas non-Arab net investments totalled JD12 million in the same period.

The net foreign investments in the first four months of this year amounted to JD20.3 million compared to JD5.3 million in 1997.

REUTERS The Business of Information

| Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 15/05/98 18:54 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
| US Dollar | - | 1.7856 | 0.6160 | 1.4880 | 134.30 | 1.4600 | 1760.75 | 2.0128 | 5.9885 |
| DE Mark | 0.5600 | - | 0.3441 | 0.8334 | 75.15 | 0.8118 | 985.88 | 1.1273 | 3.3543 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6280 | 2.9033 | - | 2.4190 | 218.42 | 2.3577 | 2862.45 | 3.2722 | 9.7355 |
| CH Franc | 0.6720 | 1.1930 | 0.4129 | - | 90.23 | 0.9738 | 1182.51 | 1.3516 | 4.0218 |
| JP Yen | 0.0074 | 1.3286 | 0.4573 | 1.1071 | - | 1.0788 | 13.10 | 148.76 | 4.4557 |
| CA Dollar | 0.6897 | 1.2918 | 0.4225 | 0.9999 | 111.08 | - | 1220.80 | 1.4551 | 4.3255 |
| IL Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0141 | 0.3491 | 0.0845 | 1312.18 | 0.8235 | - | 11.43 | 3.4011 |
| NL Guilder | 0.4988 | 88.88 | 0.3053 | 73.93 | 66.88 | 0.7202 | 674.37 | - | 2.9745 |
| FR Franc | 0.1670 | 0.2980 | 0.1028 | 24.8352 | 22.40 | 0.2420 | 33.59 | 33.5900 | - |

| Middle East Currencies | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KUW | AED | LBP | EGP |
| US Dollar | - | 0.7090 | 2.7506 | 0.3770 | 3.6400 | 0.3068 | 3.6728 | 1513.20 | 3.4150 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4104 | - | 6.2886 | 0.5317 | 3.6400 | 0.4313 | 5.1804 | 2134.27 | 4.8166 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2698 | 0.1890 | - | 0.1005 | 0.37 | 0.0815 | 0.98 | 403.47 | 0.9105 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.66 | 1.8806 | 9.3483 | - | 8.66 | 0.8111 | 8.74 | 4013.79 | 9.0584 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1948 | 1.0304 | - | 0.0840 | 1.01 | 415.71 | 0.9382 | - |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2701 | 2.3185 | 12.2646 | 1.2328 | 11.90 | - | 12.01 | 4948.33 | 0.9382 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1930 | 1.0211 | 0.1026 | 0.9970 | 0.0833 | - | 411.89 | 0.9298 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.66 | 0.4685 | 2.4786 | 0.2491 | 2.4055 | 0.2021 | 2.4272 | - | 2.2558 |
| Egyptian | 0.2928 | 0.2078 | 1.0882 | 0.1104 | 1.0639 | 0.0895 | 1.0755 | 443.10 | - |

| Energy | | | | |
|--------|-------|----------|--------|--------|
| Oil | Last | Previous | Oil | Last |
| Brent | 14.43 | 14.33 | WTI | 14.92 |
| WTI | 14.92 | 15.11 | Bonny | 14.43 |
| Bonny | 14.43 | 14.33 | Dubai | 13.15 |
| Dubai | 13.15 | 12.77 | UL Gas | 158.00 |

| Metal Prices | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|------|
| Metal | Bid | Offer | Metal | Bid |
| Gold (oz's) | 301.3 | 301.8 | Silver (oz's) | 5.69 |
| Silver (oz's) | 5.69 | 5.72 | Platinum (oz's) | 404 |
| Platinum (oz's) | 404 | 405 | AL (3 Months) | 1750 |
| AL (3 Months) | 1750 | 1751 | CU (3 Months) | 1735 |
| CU (3 Months) | 1735 | 1740 | Zinc (3 Months) | 1073 |
| Zinc (3 Months) | 1073 | 1075 | Lead (3 Months) | 548 |
| Lead (3 Months) | 548 | 549 | Ni (3 Months) | 4960 |

| Energy | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|
| Commodity | Last | Delivery | Commodity | Last |
| Coffee (c/lb) | 132.82 | Spot | US Dollar | 0.708 |
| Cocoa (\$/ton) | 2002 | Spot | GB Sterling | 1.6804 |
| Sugar (\$/ton) | 271.9 | Spot | DE Mark | 0.3975 |
| Wheat (\$/ton) | 93 | Spot | CH Franc | 0.4775 |
| Soya (c/lb) | 28.46 | Spot | FR Franc | 0.1185 |
| Tea (c/lb) | 115 | Spot | JP Yen | 0.0074 |
| Barley (\$/bush) | 0 | Spot | IL Lira | 0.3528 |
| Rice (\$/ton) | 410 | Spot | IT Lira | 0.4033 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|-------|------|---------|
| 1.800 | 1.400 INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK. | 8.2 | 0.81 | 19 | 19187 | 30769 | 1.50 | 1.61 | 1.50 | 1.50 | - | 1.601 | .109 | 4 | |
| 5.150 | 5.500 THE HOUSING BK. | 19.0 | 3.20 | 619 | 153194 | 925742 | 5.83 | 4.28 | 5.70 | 4.25 | -0.42 | 5.035 | .307 | 5 | |
| 1.850 | 1.000 JOR. HIGLY BANK | 9 | 0.00 | 24 | 14950 | 28690 | 1.83 | 1.99 | 1.85 | 1.97 | -0.14 | 1.514 | .100 | 5 | |
| 590 | 540 JOR. COOP BANK | 4.1 | 10.14 | 48 | 114930 | 77139 | 1.54 | 1.59 | 1.55 | 1.55 | -0.02 | 1.471 | .174 | 6 | |
| 1.840 | 1.740 JOR. SECUR. BANK | 18.5 | 0.00 | 95 | 91805 | 95795 | 1.85 | 1.90 | 1.81 | 1.82 | -0.03 | 1.859 | .235 | 5 | |
| 1.750 | 1.530 JOR. INV. FID. BANK | 24.3 | 9.25 | 52 | 219410 | 27459 | 1.53 | 1.51 | 1.45 | 1.50 | -0.07 | 1.492 | .195 | 5 | |
| 1.620 | 1.420 JOR. INV. FID. BANK/INSTR. | - | 0.00 | 8 | 38171 | 56123 | 1.53 | 1.55 | 1.42 | 1.47 | -0.14 | 1.470 | .280 | 2 | |
| 890 | 910 BKT. AL-HAL (BKTVA) | 4.6 | 0.00 | 13 | 8850 | 7818 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | 0.91 | -0.07 | 883 | .442 | 2 | |
| 2.570 | 2.510 ARAB BANKING CO. | 19.5 | 0.00 | 9 | 24544 | 51141 | 2.57 | 2.50 | 2.50 | 2.50 | -0.07 | 2.501 | .153 | 2 | |
| MARKET TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 1229 | 854192 | 4422144 | INDEX NUMBER | 171.78 | CHANGE | | | +10.27% |
| SECTOR | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.040 | 1.000 ARABIAN STAS INSR. | 49.4 | 0.00 | 5 | 313 | 194 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | -0.10 | .911 | .011 | 2 | |
| 2.320 | 2.050 JOR. PAPER INSR. | 5.1 | 11.34 | 4 | 12750 | 29259 | 2.13 | 2.20 | 2.10 | 2.20 | -0.07 | 2.139 | .325 | 3 | |
| 1.200 | 1.000 BKT. LAND INSR. | 5.0 | 0.00 | 2 | 4500 | 415 | 1.10 | 1.14 | 1.14 | 1.14 | -0.06 | 1.140 | .007 | 1 | |
| 3.100 | 2.100 PHILADELPHIA INSR. | 20.1 | 0.00 | 1 | 9000 | 10900 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 | - | 2.100 | .750 | 1 | |
| 2.100 | 2.100 ARAB LIFE INSR. | 9.2 | 0.00 | 3 | 2350 | 5381 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 | 2.10 | -0.21 | 2.290 | .107 | 2 | |
| ISSUANCE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 17 | 35493 | 53394 | INDEX NUMBER | 133.47 | CHANGE | | | +0.73% |
| 2.120 | 2.000 JOR. ELECTRIC PWR. | 9.9 | 5.39 | 35 | 14454 | 23637 | 2.03 | 2.04 | 2.01 | 2.04 | -0.01 | 2.020 | .111 | 4 | |
| 4.950 | 4.530 JORD. MINERALS | 73.0 | 0.00 | 5 | 747 | 2352 | 4.59 | 5.50 | 4.50 | 4.50 | -0.09 | 4.501 | .428 | 2 | |
| 4.850 | 4.890 ARAB TEL. NETS | 24.3 | 6.30 | 1 | 300 | 930 | 4.89 | 4.65 | 4.65 | 4.55 | -0.24 | 4.450 | .003 | 1 | |
| 1.080 | 1.030 BKT. PORTFOLIO | 44.3 | 0.00 | 64 | 34100 | 29555 | 1.07 | 1.11 | 1.07 | 1.11 | -0.04 | 1.097 | .721 | 1 | |
| 1.250 | 1.450 BKT. PORTFOLIO | 14.4 | 0.00 | 14 | 4040 | 3875 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | -0.01 | 1.447 | .008 | 3 | |
| 1.380 | 1.330 JORDAN TEL. TRAD. | 8.4 | - | 0.00 | 15 | 15730 | 5411 | 1.35 | 1.39 | 1.36 | 1.39 | -0.03 | 1.381 | .412 | 2 |
| 8.500 | 8.410 ALBA TEL. | 8.8 | 5.96 | 4 | 400 | 3351 | 8.40 | 8.52 | 8.30 | 8.52 | -0.02 | 8.378 | .020 | 3 | |
| 1.150 | 1.040 MID. EAST TRAD. | 192.0 | 0.00 | 5 | 12700 | 13714 | 1.04 | 1.10 | 1.06 | 1.08 | -0.02 | 1.080 | .249 | 2 | |
| 4.200 | 4.000 ARAB EXPL. INV. INC. | 9.9 | 2.00 | 31 | 59950 | 23974 | 4.00 | 4.05 | 4.00 | 4.00 | -0.05 | 4.000 | .590 | 5 | |
| 1.900 | 1.800 ARAB EXPL. INV. INC. | 15.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 5000 | 400 | 1.80 | 1.80 | 1.80 | 1.80 | -0.00 | 1.800 | .075 | 1 | |
| 1.950 | 1.910 KAMA EDUCATION | 15.2 | 0.00 | 20 | 9150 | 8448 | 1.91 | 1.91 | 1.91 | 1.91 | -0.00 | 1.913 | .702 | 4 | |
| 1.510 | 1.490 UNITED CO. | 4.7 | 7.38 | 35 | 11750 | 17798 | 1.51 | 1.54 | 1.50 | 1.51 | -0.03 | 1.515 | .235 | 4 | |
| SERVICES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 294 | 171321 | 374440 | INDEX NUMBER | 113.39 | CHANGE | | | +1.06% |
| 1.100 | 1.100 ATTACHEE | - | 0.00 | 3 | 4550 | 5005 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | - | 1.100 | .143 | 2 | |
| 2.350 | 2.450 JOR. CONCRETE FACT. | 15.4 | 4.23 | 346 | 98715 | 253079 | 2.50 | 2.52 | 2.51 | 2.40 | -0.10 | 2.555 | .152 | 5 | |
| 3.050 | 3.050 JOR. PROSTATE KIDNEY | 31.7 | 0.00 | 2 | 3380 | 10106 | 3.05 | 3.09 | 3.09 | 2.99 | -0.06 | 3.090 | .008 | 1 | |
| 5.100 | 5.500 ARAB POSTAGE CO. | 24.9 | 3.55 | 11 | 4550 | 26031 | 5.50 | 5.52 | 5.47 | 5.47 | -0.03 | 5.501 | .006 | 4 | |
| 11.150 | 10.100 JOR. PETROLEUM SUPPLY | 10.1 | 8.10 | 14 | 11140 | 11994 | 10.20 | 10.46 | 10.20 | 10.30 | -0.10 | 10.218 | .082 | 5 | |
| 5.900 | 5.900 JORDAN TAILING | 8.4 | 1.94 | 1 | 50 | 751 | 5.90 | 5.72 | 5.72 | 5.23 | -0.38 | 5.230 | .005 | 1 | |
| 1.470 | 1.400 WOODEN INDUSTRIES | 10.8 | 7.35 | 3 | 500 | 409 | 1.44 | 1.27 | 1.25 | 1.24 | -0.08 | 1.143 | .330 | 3 | |
| 1.240 | 1.140 INDUSTRIAL COMM. INSR. | - | 0.00 | 9 | 2531 | 3075 | 1.20 | 1.22 | 1.15 | 1.20 | - | 1.195 | .051 | 1 | |
| 4.350 | 4.350 JOR. WOODEN MILLS | 8.3 | 3.17 | 4 | 5000 | 37181 | 4.35 | 4.30 | 4.15 | 4.30 | -0.05 | 4.197 | .150 | 2 | |
| 5.140 | 5.270 ARAB PHARM. INSR. | 24.7 | 3.75 | 291 | 130905 | 593377 | 5.31 | 5.43 | 5.20 | 5.34 | -0.03 | 5.297 | 1.455 | 5 | |
| 1.900 | 1.750 JOR. CHEMICAL INSR. | 8.1 | 5.41 | 7 | 4273 | 7575 | 1.75 | 1.85 | 1.74 | 1.95 | -0.09 | 1.773 | .085 | 1 | |
| 4.070 | 3.870 JOR. PRINT & PACK. | - | 0.00 | 4 | 500 | 1782 | 3.87 | 3.98 | 2.90 | 3.90 | -0.27 | 3.944 | .161 | 2 | |
| 1.250 | 1.270 JOR. PHYSICAL MARKET. | 9.8 | 2.47 | 2 | 2000 | 2878 | 1.15 | 1.18 | 1.18 | 1.18 | -0.01 | 1.180 | .065 | 2 | |
| 2.480 | 2.480 JOR. PAPER CO. | 8.0 | 0.00 | 8 | 1502 | 3455 | 2.48 | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.44 | -0.04 | 2.440 | .020 | 1 | |
| 1.820 | 1.820 RAFFIA INDUSTRIES | - | 0.00 | 5 | 1459 | 1191 | 1.82 | 1.85 | 1.80 | 1.80 | -0.02 | 1.875 | .097 | 3 | |
| 5.170 | 5.900 DOR ALBA DEV. INV. | 7.0 | 4.03 | 14 | 3301 | 19882 | 5.50 | 5.80 | 5.90 | 5.80 | -0.30 | 5.529 | .055 | 6 | |
| 2.870 | 2.700 ARAB ALUM. IND. | 10.4 | 9.05 | 9 | 2630 | 9545 | 2.70 | 2.77 | 2.75 | 2.78 | -0.03 | 2.767 | .098 | 1 | |
| 4.490 | 4.490 LITTONCO & POWELL | 15.8 | 0.00 | 4 | 51500 | 18931 | 4.49 | 4.56 | 4.51 | 4.51 | -0.02 | 4.511 | .018 | 1 | |
| 1.750 | 1.590 ARAB PAPER COV. IND. | 21.4 | 0.00 | 2 | 2950 | 2045 | 49 | 70 | 49 | 70 | -0.01 | 492 | .084 | 2 | |
| 1.540 | 1.540 NATIONAL IND. | - | 0.00 | 38 | 42917 | 22389 | 1.54 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.52 | -0.03 | 1.522 | .715 | 5 | |
| 1.410 | 1.390 INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM. | - | 0.00 | 34 | 44550 | 18175 | 1.50 | 1.41 | 1.40 | 1.41 | -0.01 | 1.411 | .151 | 5 | |
| 1.540 | 1.540 JOR. MICROFILM IND. | 307.3 | 0.00 | 2 | 954 | 51 | 1.54 | 1.51 | 1.51 | 1.51 | -0.02 | 1.511 | .018 | 1 | |
| 1.470 | 1.350 PETRO. CHEM. IND. | 12.9 | 5.35 | 2 | 700 | 894 | 1.30 | 1.31 | 1.24 | 1.24 | -0.04 | 1.277 | 1.258 | 6 | |
| 1.210 | 1.120 MACL. CARL. WIRE. HYAC | 27.2 | 0.00 | 40 | 13444 | 14584 | 1.17 | 1.19 | 1.13 | 1.13 | -0.04 | 1.153 | .149 | 5 | |
| 1.520 | 1.590 JOR. SULPH. COV. | 13.4 | 0.00 | 11 | 7900 | 4768 | 1.41 | 1.51 | 1.40 | 1.40 | -0.01 | 1.403 | .175 | 4 | |
| 1.380 | 1.270 ARAB PHARM. CHEM. | 15.2 | 5.35 | 52 | 45400 | 42352 | 1.30 | 1.38 | 1.30 | 1.38 | -0.08 | 1.144 | .928 | 5 | |
| 1.900 | 1.900 PETRO. INSR. IND. | 14.2 | 0.00 | 38 | 19790 | 18790 | 1.85 | 1.88 | 1.82 | 1.82 | -0.02 | 1.877 | .258 | 6 | |
| 1.700 | 1.680 JOR. INDS. REFINERIES | 9.3 | 14.49 | 31 | 15150 | 10950 | 1.59 | 1.59 | 1.47 | 1.59 | - | 1.679 | .202 | 4 | |
| 1.480 | 1.350 NATL. CHEMICAL | 9.3 | 7.52 | 30 | 17405 | 1355 | 1.35 | 1.35 | 1.32 | 1.33 | -0.02 | 1.325 | .182 | 5 | |
| 1.050 | 1.870 JOR. PET. CARBON CO. | 12.1 | 11.42 | 18 | 11300 | 9742 | 1.88 | 1.87 | 1.85 | 1.86 | -0.02 | 1.844 | .161 | 6 | |
| 1.480 | 1.350 LCL "BAY HEAVY WEAR | 14.9 | 0.00 | 22 | 1470 | 10541 | 1.31 | 1.34 | 1.39 | 1.39 | -0.04 | 1.371 | .102 | 3 | |
| 1.310 | 1.230 LCL. TONER | 7.2 | 8.49 | 2 | 71601 | 21335 | 1.29 | 1.31 | 1.24 | 1.24 | -0.05 | 1.274 | .116 | 5 | |
| 1.150 | 1.050 UNION CH. & WIRE. | 11.0 | 0.00 | 10 | 32450 | 94019 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | 1.10 | - | 1.100 | .524 | 2 | |
| 1.830 | 1.730 JORDAN STEEL | 8.3 | 9.21 | 49 | 69711 | 56915 | 1.74 | 1.76 | 1.73 | 1.74 | -0.02 | 1.743 | .331 | 5 | |
| 1.400 | 1.570 MID-EAST COMPLEX | 10.1 | 0.00 | 55 | 206550 | 42921 | 1.49 | 1.59 | 1.59 | 1.59 | -0.04 | 1.594 | .548 | 5 | |
| 1.900 | 1.970 ARAB TMT. FOOD FACT. | 54.9 | 0.00 | 5 | 50900 | 60000 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | - | 1.000 | 1.000 | 1 | |
| INDUSTRIAL SECT. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 1127 | 854213 | 1487730 | INDEX NUMBER | 104.30 | CHANGE | | | +6.37% |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | 2587 | 1907569 | 5539348 | INDEX NUMBER | 179.95 | CHANGE | | | +6.45% |
| NO. OF DAYS TRADED | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

U-19 Asian Cup Jordanian team returns after winless participation

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S Under-19 national soccer team returned home after poor performance at the Group Two 31st Asian Cup qualifiers which concluded in Beirut Thursday evening.

Jordan lost match 2-1 to hosts Lebanon after leading 1-0 at halftime to finish last in the four-team group.

They had earlier lost 2-1 to the Saudi team and lost the opening match 2-0 to Syria.

Lebanon were runner up and Syria third on goal difference.

The Saudi team, a two time titlist, clinched the qualifying berth from Group 2 and moved to the 10-team Asian finals in Bangkok, Thailand in October.

Thirty-nine nations are contesting the preliminary round qualifiers of the event divided into nine groups. The finals will include the top team in each group and the host nation.

Four teams — the top three finalists and

the previous Asian champion — will then qualify to the youth World Cup in Nigeria in 1999.

The Jordanian team had a week-long training camp in Egypt, and an earlier one in Baghdad, while the Syrian team, who won the title in 1994, trained in Beirut, Syria and Kuwait before arriving in Beirut.

The nine groups are:

Group 1: Iran, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen

Group 2: Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine

Group 4: Iraq, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Democratic Rep. of Korea

Group 5: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan

Group 6: India, Maldives, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Bhutan

Group 7: China, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos, Guam

Group 8: Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Brunei

Group 9: Korea, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, Philippines

Australian system must change — tennis legend

PERTH (AFP) — Australian tennis probably needs to change its development system if it wants to return to its glory days, former Australian superstar Margaret Court said here Friday.

Lamenting the country's decline in the sport in recent years, the winner of 64 grand slam events said: "It is hard to believe that, while the Americans and Europeans are producing (star players), we in this nation are not now able to do that."

"We probably have to change our whole system to bring some talent through," she said on Perth radio (Australian Broadcasting Corporation).

"Today, those young players who show some talent, tend to be thrown into squads. A lot of them get squashed before they get to 15 or 16."

Court, 56, completed the grand slam in 1970 and was Wimbledon champion three times.

Now an ordained pastor, running a Christian ministry in Perth, she said she believed she and her legendary compatriot Rod Laver (grand slam winner in 1962 and 1969) would have been able to handle the demands of modern tennis.

"I think we would have fitted in very well," she said.

Referring to the benefit she had gained from her Christian commitment, she said: "I only wish I had known in my playing days what I now know from the Bible — then perhaps I would have won six Wimbledon, and not three."

Chang evicts Sampras with barrage of aces

ROME (AFP) — Michael Chang rained down aces on Pete Sampras Thursday to send the World No. 1 packing out of \$2.45 million Italian Open nursing a 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) third-round defeat.

Sampras found his clay game back on the drawing board with the French Open — the only Grand Slam that he has never won — starting in little more than a week.

Sampras, noted for a five serve, managed only five during the one-hour, 43-minute upset while Chang produced 11, including one at 197 kph to yield the first of his two match points.

"I'll never really win matches just by serving well," said Chang. "But a few free points here and there will definitely help me out."

Marcelo Rios of Chile continued his effortless wins this week, knocking off Thomas Muster, a three-time champion in Rome, 6-3, 6-1.

Rios is playing only his second event since an elbow injury suffered in late March.

"I've been playing really good, winning easy matches here," said the 23-year-old from Santiago. "Each one I win is better for me. I'm playing the game better each day."



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov reacts by throwing his racket after losing a point during his third round match against Dutch Richard Krajicek in the Italian Open against Krajicek won the match 6-2 3-6 7-6 (8/6) (Reuters photo)

Last year's French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten beat German Tommy Haas in the third round 6-4, 6-2, Dutch 11th seed Richard Krajicek stopped 1996 Paris holder Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (8/6). Spain's Alberto Berasategui ousted

Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-2.

New Zealand's Brett Steven stunned Spain's Monte Carlo champion Carlos Moya 7-5, 6-0.

"I don't think anyone in their right mind would have taken me to win that match," the Kiwi winner said. "Especially after the first five games when I was down double break."

World No. 1 Sampras blamed a slow start in the first set — and the fast-light halls used at the event — for his downfall.

"I've gotten off to a shaky in every match I've played this week," the 26-year-old American said. "It feels like the balls are flying through the air and I felt tentative."

Chang had beaten Sampras in the second round of the French Open nine years ago — the only other time the pair had played on clay. Chang went on to win the Grand Slam as a 17-year-old.

Sampras, who won one of his three career clay court titles in Rome four years ago, held an 11-7 record in the series.

Chang won his last match against his rival in late 1995; Sampras won the pair's last meeting, the 1996 U.S. Open final.

"In the first set I dug myself a hole. In the second I was happy with how I played. I just came up a little short," said Sampras.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ancelotti

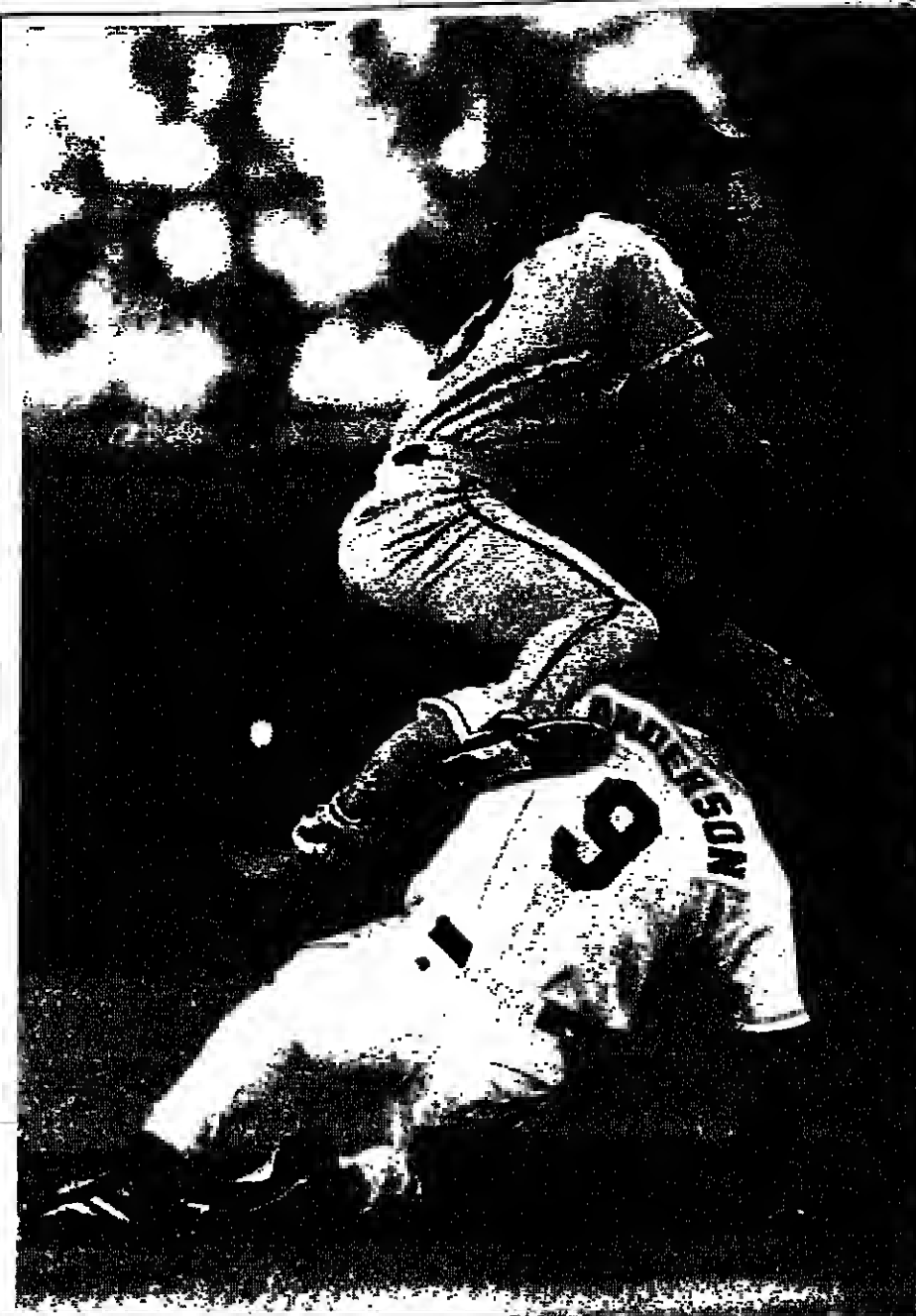
leaving Parma

ROME (AFP) — Parma coach Carlo Ancelotti announced Thursday he is leaving the club after admitting the Serie A outfit had not been successful enough this season under his tenure, despite bagging a UEFA Cup spot. "I regret this, but I always said the club had the right to cash for a parting of the ways if results were not good enough. And it appears they weren't good enough, which I take into account," said Ancelotti. Parma officials earlier had informed him a mutual split was in both parties' best interests.

Ancelotti's successor is set to be revealed after Sunday's final league match of the season against Brescia. Parma had high hopes of the title this season, or at least second spot to qualify for the Champions League, but cannot now finish higher than fourth.

United want Batistuta

LONDON (AFP) — English Premiership Manchester United are interested in bringing Fiorentina's 29-year-old Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta to Old Trafford. Batistuta, who has been with the Italian side for seven years and who has scored 150 goals for the Serie A club, is currently under investigation for alleged tax evasion and has had assets frozen by the Argentine authorities.



Cleveland Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel leaps over a sliding Baltimore Orioles' Brady Anderson after forcing him at second base in the first inning at Camden Yards (Reuters photo)

Road to NBA title leads through Chicago

CHICAGO (AFP) — Once again, the road to the National Basketball Association championship runs through Chicago.

On Sunday, the Indiana Pacers become the latest Eastern Conference challengers to the Chicago Bulls' hegemony when they launch their NBA semi-final series.

"To get a championship, you have to go through Chicago," Pacers star guard Reggie Miller said simply.

Although either the Bulls or Pacers have been in the conference finals in each of the last 10 years, they have never met in the playoffs. Indiana marks Chicago's sixth different opponent in its last six conference finals appearances. The Pacers are appearing in the conference final for the third time in the last five seasons.

"Indiana is a very deep team," said Bulls coach Phil Jackson. "They have 10 players on their bench who are all contributors. They play excellent defence as a group and that will be a key to the series. They're also very physical. We need to match that."

Bulls superstar Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen have formed the nucleus of a Bulls team that is seeking its third straight NBA title and sixth in the last eight years under Jackson.

Chicago won three straight titles from 1991-93. The Bulls and Pacers split their four regular season meetings this season, with both winning one on the other team's home court.

"It will be tough to beat them four games but we have some guys over here who really believe in themselves," said Larry Bird, the NBA Coach of the Year in his first season.

Meanwhile, Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone will be battling in the Western Conference finals between the Los Angeles



Indiana Pacers coach Larry Bird yells instructions to his team in their 99-88 victory against the New York Knicks in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference semifinal. The Pacers advance to the Eastern Conference finals with the win. Bird was named NBA Coach of the Year earlier this week (Reuters photo)

Lakers and Utah Jazz beginning Saturday in Salt Lake City.

The experienced Jazz taught the young Lakers a lesson when they eliminated Los Angeles in five games in the quarter-finals last year on their way to the NBA Finals.

Now the Lakers have an opportunity to show how much they learned from that series.

"The Jazz beat us last year so we have something to prove here," said O'Neal. "I just think they have a year under their belt mentally and I think it's going to help them," admitted Malone.

O'Neal and the Lakers overpowered the Seattle

SuperSonics in five games to reach the West finals for the first time since 1991 when Magic Johnson was running the show.

After losing the first game of the series in Seattle, the Lakers won the next four, averaging more than 108 points and winning by an average of nearly 17 points against one of the league's best defensive teams.

Utah, which has home-court advantage throughout the postseason, is in the conference finals for the third straight year. After needing the maximum five games to close out the Houston Rockets in the opening round, the Jazz eliminated the San Antonio Spurs 4-1 in the next round.

Life ban for Chinese swimmers caught with steroids

BEIJING (AFP) — China, shamed by recent doping scandals, is to impose a lifetime ban on swimmers, including first time offenders, caught using steroids.

"We deeply regretted the series of shameful drug scandals that involved Chinese swimmers in the 1994 Asian Games and the World Swimming Championships in Perth this January," said Wu Shouzhong, a Chinese Swimming Association official and vice president of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

"The CSA plans to increase the number of drugs tests this year to 600 and impose more severe sanctions, including a life-ban against first-time steroid offenders," he told an anti-doping conference, according to Xinhua.

Four Chinese swimmers at the world championships were found to have taken the illegal diuretic Triamterene, a masking agent for anabolic steroid use.

The failed tests followed the disqualification of breaststroker Yuan Yuan after Australian customs officials found 13 vials of human growth hormone in her bags at Sydney airport a few days earlier.

In total, 27 Chinese swimmers have tested positive for drugs in the last decade, with seven testing positive for dehydrotestosterone at the 1994 Asian Games in Japan.

"The CSA is resolved to execute its strict penalty policy against drug offenders," said Chinese swimming centre director and CSA vice chairman Shi

Tianshu.

"We will continue our anti-doping education program related to banned performance-enhancing substances in order to let all people in China's swimming circles gain a thorough knowledge," he added.

The CSA proposed an 11-point action plan to stamp out drug abuse after the doping scandal in Australia, which included a lifetime ban for anyone caught using anabolic steroids.

In addition, all swimmers will have to put their winnings into a bank account that will only be accessible when they retire and if they have a clean slate as far as doping is concerned.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TODAY AT | PHILADELPHIA '1' Bruce Willis & Gary Oldman ... in THE FIFTH ELEMENT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | PHILADELPHIA '2' ED Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | PLAZA The biggest cinema production TITANIC Shows: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m. | CONCORD CONCORD '1' Farouq Fikhar & Wafa Amr ... in HANHEB WANEH (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI - KAMANANA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 | GALLERIA 2 ABDOUN FORGET PARIS & still showing evenings TITANIC | GALLERIA 1 ABDOUN THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES & still showing evenings TITANIC | Hisham Yares Theater TEL: 4625155 STARTING APRIL 6TH Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian Starring Hisham Yares, Amal Dabbas, Rania Kurdi and the group at 8:30 p.m. For reservations call: 4640133, 4625155 |
| | ARGENTINA 2,780,400 sq km Population 34,768,451 Principal language Annual GNP per capita Participation in World Cup championships | | | | | | |

World Cup contest by Franz Beckenbauer

It's hard to believe, but I remember the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. For me it was a painful match.

At the end of regular time I was partially incapacitated. I had sustained an injury to my right shoulder after a collision with an Italian player but carried on playing with a sling which immobilised my arm. In extra time Italy won the unforgettable match who scored Italy's fourth goal.



If this country is taking part in the football World Cup although it is mostly for cold there for field sports.

But because this kingdom has reaped riches from oil and gas, there is an abundance of super-modern indoor sports arenas with natural turf floors, where even first league football games can be played north of the Arctic Circle.

In 1988, Japanese feminists dedicated a memorial to this country after its female prime minister killed half her cabinet positions with environmental protectionists, however, are angry with the government of this country because it permits its fishermen to hunt a protected species of mammal.

The ancestors of these countrymen were also not too popular with their vanquished foes in their pillaging raids across the sea. Perhaps as a little gesture of atonement, a coveted prize is awarded in the capital of this country for efforts towards peace.

The inhabitants say of themselves that they are practically unbeatable in

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14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65
66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

winter sports. According to them, everybody there is born with a long piece of sporting equipment attached to their feet.

Solution: Please enter the letters of the country as instructed in the solution squares as follows:
Second letter of the country in position 26.
Fourth letter in positions 42, 51 and 62.



ARGENTINA

2.780.400 sq km Capital: Buenos Aires
Population: 34.768.455 — 12.5 per sq km
Principal language: Spanish
Annual GNP per capita: US\$ 8.060.—

Participation in World Cup championships:

| | |
|------|------|
| 1930 | 1978 |
| 1990 | 1986 |

Bin Sulayem dominates on his way to 3rd consecutive Jordan Rally title

By Aileen Bannayan
and Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Mohammad Bin Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Friday drove his Ford Escort to victory as he won his eighth Jordan Rally title with a time of 3.02.22 minutes.

Bin Sulayem, with co-driver Ronan Morgan, dominated the two-day 23-stage rally for the third consecutive year ahead of Cypriot Andreas Tsouloftas and partner Panayotis Shialos who took second place with a time of 3.16.10 minutes in their Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution.

Australia's Ron Cremen and David Stoeck finished third with a time of 3.29.07 minutes in another Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution.

Jordan's top competitor was 1996 Jordan Drivers Open champion Ahmad Al Daoud and partner Malek Hariri who came in fourth overall in their Ford Escort Cosworth with a time of 3.31.20.

Only fifteen competitors finished the rally including seven Jordanians.

Reaching the finish ramp at Amman's Le Meridien, dubbed "home of the rally", were UAE's Abdullah Qassimi in fifth place, Cypriot entry Israel's Yuval Melamid, in sixth, UAE's Ron Oakley seventh, Jordan's Amjad Shamaileh eighth, Jordan's Bashar Bustami ninth, Faris Bustami tenth, Cypriot Nearchos eleventh, Jordan's Amjad Farrah twelfth, followed by compatriots Raed Haddad thirteenth, Lee Dunn fourteenth, and the only woman competitor Fiona Mulcahy of the UAE fifteenth.

Friday's win consolidated nine-time Middle East champion Bin Sulayem's grip on the 1998 Middle East Championship after



Mohammad Bin Sulayem of the UAE powers his Ford Escort through the desert stages of the Jordan Rally (Reuters photo)



Prince Faisal Ben Hussein joins Jordan Rally winners Mohammad Bin Sulayem (R) and co-driver Ronan Morgan at the finish ramp: Bin Sulayem won by 14 minutes over Cypriot driver Andreas Tsouloftas (AFP photo)

winning the inaugural Oman and UAE rallies.

The regional championship includes rallies in Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Cyprus and Dubai.

Jordan's most prestigious

auto sports event, which this year forms the third round of the Middle East Rally Championship, included 300.580 kilometres of spe-

cial stages.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein gave the start signal for the 16th Jordan Rally organised by the Royal

Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Twenty-nine cars started the rally Thursday morning heading eastwards for 13 special asphalt stages passing through winding roads in Rumman Forest, Slehi, Iraq Al Amir, the Dead Sea, Mushaqqar, Mousa Springs, Mount Nebo, Mahes, and ending in Dar Al Dawa'. The 13th stage was later cancelled for safety reasons.

Mohammad Al Daoud who was fourth last year went out of the rally in Thursday's fifth special stage. Others quitting included Assem Aref, Tareq Tabaa, Tamer Tabaa, Ibrahim Muhawesh and Ahmad Mihar of Jordan, Brian McGinley of the UAE, Amrik Singh of Great Britain, Daniel Levi, Charis Komodromos, Phildes Christakis and Rami Shohatovich of Cyprus, Masoud Al Saleh and Jassim Bin Hey from Kuwait.

Only Twenty-one cars started the rally on the second day as desert tracks proved to be the ultimate test of experience, stamina and well-maintained and sponsored teams.

Friday's ten special stages took drivers to the south of the country through Tunaib, Daba'a, Salayta, Mudeseisat, Daba'a, Swaga.

No Jordanian has won the rally since it started in 1981.

The best Jordanian showing was third place finishes by Ziyad Bustami in 1981, HRH Prince Abdullah in 1986 and 1988; Hani Bisharat in 1987, Amjad Farrah in 1993, and Ma'rouf Abu Samra in 1995.

Competitors represented the UAE, Ireland, Cyprus, Qatar, Kuwait, Australia, Oman, Great Britain, and Germany.

The FIA stewards of the event were Wilhelm Lyding from Germany and Derek Ledger from Jordan.

Jordan earns silver medal at Asian taekwondo Championship

By Munther Murjan
and Ibrahim Haddadin
Special to the Jordan Times

MOHAMMED FALAH secured Jordan's first silver medal on the opening day of the 13th Asian taekwondo Championship presently underway at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Falah won in the below 50 kilogramme weight group, beating a Taipei player 2-1. Earlier, Falah won his first game against Australian John Rexeo by default and Saudi Sami Shabnan by technical knockout. Falah won his

third match beating his Korean opponent with a score of 4-2.

In the 45-50 kg category, Jordan's Amar Hassan lost his match to Chinese player Shing Lee. In the opening match he managed to put on quite a fight by winning the game against Kuwaiti Khalid Bu Muhammad with a score of 3-0, using swift aggressive moves.

In women's matches, Shatha Assaf, the youngest of the players and a newcomer to international championships, lost her opening match in below 43 category, with a score of 3-

11 against Chinese Ming Lee. Teammate Rasha Musharbash also lost her match to her Indonesian counterpart 1-3 in the same weight group.

This championships marks the first participation of a Jordanian referees in a international event. Referee Fuad Jarwan officiated three matches and was the

only Arab referee.

International referee Lua'y Khatib came ahead of class among over 55 participants from 18 countries in the referees training course.

The next Asian championship is expected to take place in 2000 in Hong Kong. The qualifiers are to be held in the Philippines in August 1999.

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During Prince Hassan's address to army cadets: 'Jordan has been treated unfairly by some who try to belittle its achievements and sacrifices'

MU'TA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan praised the role of the Jordanian Armed Forces in defending the Palestinian homeland and other Arab land, and contributing towards world peace.

In an address to army cadets at the military wing of Mu'ta University, Prince Hassan urged the young officers to uphold the standards and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and build on the achievements of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Crown Prince, who also tackled domestic and foreign affairs of concern to Jordan, urged the cadets to arm themselves with the knowledge and skill necessary to counter any attempts to harm Jordan and its achievements.

Recalling the sacrifices of the armed forces in defending Arab rights, Prince Hassan said the Jordanian army assumed honourable stands in the battles for Jerusalem, Bah Al Wad, Latroun and other areas of Palestine. He stressed that it was the Arab army's brave and heroic stand that preserved the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem in

the 1948 war.

Monuments of the army's valiant stands and sacrifices can still be seen by visitors to Palestine today, said the Crown Prince.

Referring to Jordan's role in the 1967 war, Prince Hassan said that Jordan entered the war despite its knowledge of Arab military weaknesses. It was compelled to do so in conformity with the Arab Defence Pact. The armed forces were placed under the disposal of a non-Jordanian Arab commander.

The Jordanian Armed Forces, he added, continued to shoulder their responsibilities after the 1967 war, and took part in defending the Golan Heights in Syria, despite the lack of prior coordination.

Prince Hassan also said that Jordan's role in U.N. peace keeping efforts, was part of the Kingdom's endeavours to preserve peace, citing the despatch of Jordanian troops to defend Kuwait in 1961, its involvement in settling the Yemen crisis in 1962, and in resisting the separatist movement in Oman in 1975 as examples of the armed forces peace efforts.

He also referred to

Jordan's participation in U.N. peace keeping efforts outside the Arab World, which gained the country further credibility and praise for its gallant armed forces.

Prince Hassan pointed out that despite its efforts, Jordan has been treated unfairly by its enemies and some Arabs, who he said try to belittle its achievements and the sacrifices of its armed forces. He said harmful attempts against Jordan come from those opposed to the Kingdom's march towards democracy as if it is directed against them. These elements refuse to believe that Jordan's efforts are designed to protect Arab national interests.

Praising His Majesty King Hussein's sacrifices for Jordan, Prince Hassan said the King continues his relentless efforts towards modernising and strengthening the armed forces, supervising the training of troops, and monitoring over the armed forces development.

Prince Hassan described Jordan's relations with the Palestinians as ideal, and reaffirmed Jordan's call for (Continued on page 7)



A relative cries out during the funeral of Samir Fayad, 36, who was fatally wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on Palestinian youths demonstrating in commemoration of Al Nakbe, Thursday (AP photo)

Vajpayee declares India has a 'big' nuclear bomb

G8 will not collectively impose sanctions on India — Britain

NEW DELHI (AP) — India has more than 400 million adults who can't read, more than 300 million people living in poverty, a million kilometres of unpaved roads — and at least one nuclear bomb. Its status as a Third World nuclear power was confirmed Friday in a statement from the prime minister.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's declaration that India has a "big bomb" was a startling escalation in his defiance of governments around the world, who answered India's five nuclear tests this week with economic sanctions. Until now, India had been careful to differentiate between the nuclear weapons of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and its own "peaceful" research devices.

(Continued on page 7)

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — The Group of Eight most powerful industrial countries will not collectively impose sanctions on India over its nuclear tests. British Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said Friday.

There will be "no collective sanctions at the G8," the spokesman said.

Japan and the United States have already announced sanctions against India, which stunned the world with five surprise nuclear test explosions this week.

The other G8 countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia — have so far held back from taking measures.

The G8 would express "anger and dismay" at what India has done," spokesman Alastair Campbell said. But he said it would be a response that "does not raise the temperature. We want Pakistan to make a more cautious response than they might," he added.

Each government would respond in its own way to India's nuclear tests, he said. The United States has announced tough economic sanctions against New Delhi and Japan has decided

to freeze its development aid and recalled its ambassador.

But Russia and France have expressed publicly their scepticism about sanctions and London has condemned the tests and recalled its high commissioner for consultations and Germany has adjourned since the negotiations on development aid for India.

Mr Campbell stressed that the eight wanted to get India to join up to the CTBT and the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty].

The eight will also put political pressure on Pakistan not to follow suit and carry out its own nuclear test," the spokesman added.

G8 leaders will discuss India's nuclear tests at the opening of their summit later Friday which begins with a formal dinner. Afterwards the eight will issue their first statement on the situation in the South province of Kosovo and the Middle East peace process.

Israelis say torture is important to security

GENEVA (AFP) — Israeli government officials defended the use of torture on Friday, saying "moderate physical pressure" was permitted in exceptional circumstances to prevent terrorist attacks.

Defending Israel's interrogation policy before the United Nations Committee Against Torture, the Israeli team denied that their methods applied to suspects contravened international conventions.

The team said that sleep deprivation, deafening music, violent shaking, threats and putting hoods on prisoners' heads did not constitute torture or inhuman or degrading treatment in contravention of the 1987 U.N. international convention against the use of torture.

The Israelis, headed by Israeli Foreign Ministry legal counsellor Alan Baker and Deputy Justice Minister Yehuda Schaffer, confirmed that "moderate physical pressure" on detainees had been authorised by the Israeli supreme court and was used

only in exceptional circumstances to obtain vital information in order to thwart terrorist attacks.

Last May the U.N. anti-torture committee of ten independent experts condemned the behaviour of the Israeli security services as acts amounting to torture.

The committee called on Israel to stop using torture, stressing that under the U.N. convention no circumstances warranted the practice. The Israeli team explained Friday that the policy had prevented a number of terrorist attacks, including suicide bomb attempts at market places and bus stations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias and Eilat, as well as the planned seizure of an embassy in Tel Aviv.

A bus hijacking and various planned kidnappings had also been prevented, the Israelis contended.

Israel's internal security agency Shin Beth tortures 85 per cent of the Palestinians it interrogates in violation of the U.N. convention on torture, an

Israeli human rights group said Thursday.

"Shin Beth interrogates between 1,000 and 1,500 Palestinians every year, and in 85 per cent of cases they use torture," said the B'Tselem group in a statement.

Besides the application of "moderate physical pressure" Israeli law also permits even more severe interrogation in cases where suspects are believed to have information about an imminent attack. Israel denies the methods amount to torture.

Moderate pressure comprises binding detainees in uncomfortable positions for days on end and sleep deprivation. More severe interrogation methods involve violently shaking prisoners.

The United Nations Committee against Torture will give its judgement next Monday on Israeli torture practices.

Israel's supreme court is due to meet on May 20 to discuss the legality of Shin Beth's interrogation techniques.

Netanyahu's meeting with Barak, raises possibility of early elections

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a secret meeting with the opposition leader, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed the possibility of holding early national elections this fall, two years ahead of schedule, Israeli media reported Thursday.

Mr Netanyahu and Labour Party leader Ehud Barak met on Tuesday, just before Mr Netanyahu left for fateful talks in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on the scope of an

Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank.

Mr Netanyahu's meeting with Mr Barak appeared to indicate that the prime minister is considering early elections as a way to get out of his current dilemma of either infuriating the United States, Israel's closest ally, or being ousted from office.

The Israeli prime minister's office confirmed the meeting with Mr Barak but denied that the men discussed early elections.

Both men faced repercussions from members of their respective parties over the meeting. Israeli Health Minister Yehoshua Ma'za, a member of Mr Netanyahu's Likud, told Israeli Radio the premier should bring Labour into government as its partner for a national unity government. Tsali Reshef, a leading member among Labour's liberals, quit the party Thursday.

Israeli Army Radio reported, apparently frustrated over Mr Barak's latest moves.

Vanunu wants back in Italy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli nuclear technician jailed for revealing secrets about Israel's atomic weapons arsenal has asked to be returned to Italy, where he was kidnapped by Israeli agents 12 years ago, it was revealed Friday.

The Israeli supreme court released some details of an appeal lodged by Mordechai Vanunu, who is serving an 18-year prison term for espionage for giving secrets about Israel's nuclear arsenal to a British newspaper.

weapons development at the site to The Sunday Times in 1986.

In his appeal, Mr Vanunu, 43, asked to be returned "to the state from which he was kidnapped" in October 1986, just before The Sunday Times published its report on Israel's atomic arsenal.

The court did not authorise publication of the name of the country but Mr Vanunu himself revealed during his 1987 trial that he was nabbed in Rome.

Mr Vanunu also said a foreign country's secret service was linked to his kidnapping by

According to media reports, Mr. Vanunu was lured from London to Rome by a female Mossad agent and then smuggled back to Israel aboard a ship.

Mr Vanunu, who served 11 years in solitary confinement before the conditions of his imprisonment were relaxed in March, complained that he had been "tormented and tortured" during his interrogation.

He claimed in his appeal that the purpose of the abuse and solitary confinement was to suppress reports about his kidnab-

Turkish PM says Birdal shooting result of PKK internal dispute

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said the shooting of the country's leading human rights campaigner was due to an internal dispute within the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebel group, newspapers reported on Friday.

"It is understood that it was an internal settling of accounts. Like a misunderstanding between those in the same camp... it is clear they were connected to the PKK," the Milliyet daily quoted Mr Yilmaz as saying.

Other newspapers carried the same story.

Akin Birdal, head of the Human Rights Association (IHD), was shot six times in the chest and leg by two gunmen in his Ankara office on Tuesday.

The veteran activist had been receiving death threats after purported accusations by captured PKK defector Semdin Sakik were leaked to the press linking Mr Birdal to the guerrilla group.

Rights groups blamed the shooting on these reports and linked the assassination attempt to a security scandal which exposed state ties to rightist death squads. IHD officials deny any connection to the PKK.

Milliyet quoted Mr Yilmaz as saying suspicions the shooting was carried out by the state were "unfounded... It was not as we feared," he said.

Mr Birdal has been an outspoken critic of Turkey's shaky human rights record and frequently accused the state of

U.S. seen unlikely to impose total sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration will probably not impose sanctions on foreign companies that are investing in Iran, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

"There will probably be a decision saying this [\$2 billion gas project in Iran involving France's Total and two other firms] is sanctionable but [which] will grant the companies specific waivers" from sanctions, one official told Reuters.

Officials stressed, however, that a formal decision had not yet been made by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"It's premature and we have made no decision," U.S. Under-secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said through a spokesman when asked for comment.

The Clinton administration is still negotiating with the European Union (EU) over sanctions in an effort to achieve what it considers acceptable cooperation in halting terrorism and curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the goals of a 1996 law under which the sanctions could be imposed.

Testifying in congress on Thursday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk said a U.S. decision was "imminent." He said congressmen would be briefed on the matter in the next few days by Mr. Eizenstat, who is handling the issue for Ms. Albright.

Other officials said the decision was likely to be

Bill Clinton and European leaders.

Since last year, the Clinton administration has been reviewing whether a \$2 billion deal struck by France's Total, Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petronas to develop a major Iranian oil field violates the law, that allows for sanctions on companies investing more than \$20 million a year in Iran's petroleum industry.

The law is called the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) and is designed to punish the two countries for what the United States considers their unacceptable behaviour.

Europe strongly opposes it, arguing the United States has no right to punish foreign countries in this way.

The EU has threatened to press a case against Washington in the World Trade Organisation and it has become clear that the dispute has huge potential to sour transatlantic ties, as well as relations with Russia.

For months, there has been consensus in the Clinton administration that the total project in Iran constitutes a sanctionable activity under ILSA, but there has been intensive internal debate about how best to react.

The law calls for sanctions, but also gives the administration the flexibility to invoke two kinds of waivers.

One, called a 9C waiver, invokes national security to waive sanctions against particular projects or companies.

The other, called a 4C waiver provides a blanket

to inhibit Iran's abilities to develop weapons of mass destruction or undermine Middle East peace efforts.

"The Europeans want country [4C] waivers but as far as I know it will be a company specific waiver," one official said.

Another official said the Clinton administration had "moved closer to consensus" on the issue more because of a developing relationship with Iran than anything Europe had done to meet concerns about terrorism and the spread of weapons.

Since the election of a more moderate president, Mohammad Khatami, in Iran last year, Washington and Tehran have gingerly been reaching out to each other after 20 years of hostility and some U.S. officials said they feared imposing sanctions on the Total deal would be misread in Tehran.

But the Clinton administration will have to make a compelling argument in the U.S. Congress, where there is considerable support for sanctions.

At a U.S. senate foreign relations subcommittee hearing with Mr. Indyk, the panel chairman, Senator Sam Brownback, a Kansas Republican, said he was disturbed by rumours that a "national security waiver" would be granted and sanctions not imposed.

He said Iran's record as a leading sponsor of terrorism argued against a waiver.

Final episode of 'Seinfeld' aired

NEW YORK (AFP) — In one of the longest and best publicised good-byes in television history, the last "Seinfeld" show was broadcast to an audience estimated at up to 80 million people. The 75-minute show, whose plot was cloaked in secrecy during the preceding weeks of tidal-wave media coverage, ended the ninth "Seinfeld" season at the peak of the show's popularity. It was a sitcom of how four self-obsessed Manhattanites — Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer — did, well, pretty much nothing. Several hundred people gathered in Times Square here — the city in which "Seinfeld" is set although it is shot in Los Angeles — to watch the final episode on the giant Astrovision screen.

Travolta admits debt to Cannes

CANNES (AFP) — The Cannes Film Festival played a major role in getting John Travolta's faltering career back on track, the U.S. star told reporters as he headed for the festival's gala opening. "I feel good at Cannes. I know what I owe the festival, and I'm not sure I'll ever be able to pay back everything it's given me," he said.

After the heady days of "Saturday Night Fever" in 1977, Travolta's career headed steadily for the rocks, but his role in the 1994 Cannes Golden Palm Winner Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" restored him to the ranks of Hollywood's biggest earners.

George Michael pleads no contest to lewd conduct charge

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Pop singer George Michael pleaded no contest Thursday to a lewd conduct charge and was ordered to serve 81 hours of community service and undergo sexual counselling. The plea bargain agreement also barred the singer from the Beverly Hills park where he was arrested on Apr. 7 after a plainclothes police officer reportedly saw him masturbate and expose his buttocks in a men's restroom. Michael was not present for the court proceeding, but his attorney Ira Reiner entered the plea on his behalf during this singer's scheduled arraignment at the Beverly Hills Municipal Court.

Carrey 'is nuts' — lawyer

MELBOURNE (AFP) — U.S. comic Jim Carrey admitted having sex with prostitutes and masturbating at the premiere of "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," a court here heard. Jeffrey Sher, QC, representing Australian Consolidated Publishing (ACP), told the Supreme Court hearing that information he submitted to the court showed Carrey was unstable. "To use a colloquialism, he is nuts," Sher said. Carrey is suing ACP over a Woman's Day article which claimed he sexually harassed actors Jennifer Tilly, Courtney Cox, Alicia Silverstone, Drew Barrymore and Courtney Love. Sher said Carrey made lewd comments about film legend Elizabeth Taylor during a photo shoot at the French resort of Cannes, and admitted in a 1994 magazine article to having sex with prostitutes.

Bowie's Swiss castle up for sale

GENEVA (AFP) — Rock singer David Bowie has put his Swiss castle up for sale and is asking \$3 million for it, it was revealed. Bowie has not stayed in the castle near Lausanne for anything

Odeh, Fayeze appoint

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree appointing Adnan Abu Fayeze as a member of the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament.

Puzzled by King: Wi security

By Francesca Ciriacci

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's security forces are puzzled by the security measures taken by the King's personal bodyguard during his recent visit to the West Bank.

Cotti: Swiss under

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